

Readline CheatSheet

Readline is a library which provides a common input method. Many Unix programs use or emulate the library and its keystrokes. Amongst these are Emacs, Bash (by default) and Gnome. In these programs common keystrokes all give the same behaviour. For instance, pressing Control-A will move the cursor to the beginning of the line. This cheatsheet provides an overview of the keystrokes that work in most of the programs using or emulating Readline.

C = Control

M = Meta (usually Alt)

Emacs Standard bindings

C-@	set-mark
C-A	beginning-of-line
C-B	backward-char
C-D	delete-char
C-E	end-of-line
C-F	forward-char
C-G	abort
C-H	backward-delete-char
C-I	complete
C-J	accept-line
C-K	kill-line
C-L	clear-screen
C-M	accept-line
C-N	next-history
C-P	previous-history
C-Q	quoted-insert
C-R	reverse-search-history
C-S	forward-search-history
C-T	transpose-chars
C-U	unix-line-discard
C-V	quoted-insert
C-W	unix-word-rubout
C-Y	yank
C-]	character-search
C-	undo
'_T-'/'	self-insert
'0'-'9'	self-insert
':'-'~	self-insert
C-?	backward-delete-char

Emacs Control-X bindings

C-XC-G	abort
C-XC-R	re-read-init-file
C-XC-U	undo
C-XC-X	exchange-point-and-mark
C-X(	start-kbd-macro
C-X)	end-kbd-macro
C-XE	call-last-kbd-macro
C-XC-?	backward-kill-line

Emacs Meta bindings

M-C-G	abort
M-C-H	backward-kill-word
M-C-I	tab-insert
M-C-J	vi-editing-mode
M-C-M	vi-editing-mode
M-C-R	revert-line
M-C-Y	yank-nth-arg
M-C-[	complete
M-C-]	character-search-backward
M-space	set-mark
M-#	insert-comment
M-&	tilde-expand
M-*	insert-completions
M--	digit-argument
M-.	yank-last-arg
M-0	digit-argument
M-1	digit-argument
M-2	digit-argument
M-3	digit-argument
M-4	digit-argument
M-5	digit-argument
M-6	digit-argument
M-7	digit-argument
M-8	digit-argument
M-9	digit-argument
M-<	beginning-of-history
M-=	possible-completions
M->	end-of-history
M-?	possible-completions
M-B	backward-word
M-C	capitalize-word
M-D	kill-word
M-F	forward-word
M-L	downcase-word
M-N	non-incremental-forward-search-history
M-P	non-incremental-reverse-search-history
M-R	revert-line
M-T	transpose-words
M-U	upcase-word
M-Y	yank-pop
M-\	delete-horizontal-space
M-~	tilde-expand
M-C-?	backward-kill-word
M-_	yank-last-arg