Introducing XEDIT
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Introduction: Why XEDIT?

- Extremely powerful, (almost) infinitely tailorable
- Macros allow subcommand/function extensions
- Available on Windows, MS-DOS, OS/2, *NIX
- If you have VM, you have XEDIT
  - You need to at least be able to use the system editor
- Few users *fully* exploit XEDIT!
- Note that editors are theology:
  I like XEDIT, therefore *XEDIT is best!*

PART 1: XEDIT BASICS

Anatomy of an XEDIT session

```
FOOBAR    MEMO      A1  V 80  Trunc=80 Size=17 Line=7 Col=1 Alt=0



===== * * * Top of File * * *
===== Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Praesent sed quam. In
=====  eget eros. Nunc eu mauris. Nullam suscipit. Vestibulum a tellus. Duis sem. Nul
===== la vulputate quam id magna. Ut tempus ipsum a nulla. Mauris vulputate nisi nec
===== leo. Cras eleifend pretium ante. Quisque molestie bibendum nisi. Sed ultricies
===== pede. Maecenas pede mauris, bibendum ac, congue eget, eleifend ut, turpis. Phas
===== ellus egestas, ligula id egestas pulvinar, neque libero consectetuer libero, qu
===== is convallis quam lacus at est.
=====
      |...+....1....+....2....+....3....+....4....+....5....+....6....+....7....+....>
=====
===== Suspendisse sagittis. Praesent congue ante in tellus. Morbi placerat imperdiet
===== mi. Nulla tincidunt accumsan elit. Sed lacinia tristique massa. Nullam sceleris
===== que lacus sit amet est. Sed ultricies elit. Donec fermentum. Integer ut libero.
=====  Donec cursus pulvinar lacus. Mauris porta arcu at est.
=====
=====
=====
=====
=====
=====
====> _
```

Prefix area

Scale

Command area

Invoking XEDIT

- XEDIT fn ft fm (options
  - Most of the time you can omit fm
  - Beginners can usually omit options

- X prefix command from FILELIST

XEDIT screen behavior

- Modal: Whether you are typing text, entering a command, or manipulating lines depends on cursor location
- Also works in line mode, but Not Fun
  - Out of scope for this presentation
- SAVE and QUIT do what you would expect
- FILE is short for SAVE and then QUIT
- Double the first letter to mean "Yes, I really mean it"

XEDIT save and exit commands

- SAVE
  - Saves your current file
- QUIT
  - Exits from current file (no save implied)
- FILE is short for SAVE and then QUIT
- QQ
  - Quit without saving – and I really mean it!

XEDIT current line commands

- TOP
  - Move to line zero ("top" of file, not "first line")
- BOTTOM
  - Move to bottom of file (not "last line")
- Any number
  - Move down that many lines (positive)
  - Move up that many lines (negative)
- / in prefix area
  - Make the line with "/" the current line
- :number
  - Go to specified absolute line

More XEDIT commands

- / locates text from the XEDIT command line
- CHANGE /AAA/BBB/ * replaces text
- GET fn ft fm
  - Reads the specified file into the editor
  - File is inserted after current line

XEDIT preferences and options

- QUERY option
  - Informs you about XEDIT settings
- SET option
  - Lets you change XEDIT settings
  - For this session only unless in a profile
- Many, many options – use HELP to learn more

XEDIT prefix commands

- Prefix area (====== or auto-generated line numbers) accepts many commands, often working in sets
  - d   Delete current line (follow with number for more)
  - m   Move current line
  - c   Copy current line
  - f   Following this line (for move/copy)
  - p   Preceding this line (for move/copy)
  - i   Insert (follow with a number of lines, default 1)
  - Select ranges with dd, mm, or cc at first and last line of range
- Press ENTER to activate the prefix commands you have typed

Input mode

- Type INPUT (or IN) in command area
- Keep typing new text
- Enter key gives you more input space
- Enter on an empty line returns to normal
- Type one blank if you really want an empty line

PART 3: XEDIT POWER TOOLS

FILE and SAVE parameters

- FILE and SAVE both accept optional parameters
- FILE fn ft fm
  - Write current changes to new file, then out
  - Original file untouched *at this time*
- SAVE fn ft fm
  - Write changes to new file, stays in original file

Named Line Targets

- Type .foo in prefix area to name a line "foo"

- In the command area, .foo will take you there

- Deleting the named line deletes the name

- Search for undefined name goes to bottom of file

PROFILE XEDIT

- Contains your editor preferences
- The comment first line flags this as a REXX file to CMS
- Example:

```
/* PROFILE XEDIT */
SET NUM ON
SET NULLS ON
SET CASE M I
SET PREF ON RIGHT
SET CMDLINE TOP
SET SCALE ON 4
```

Chained LOCATEs

- `LOCATE` subcommands may be chained together
- Subcommand may be specified after a `LOCATE`
- If `LOCATE` succeeds, subcommand is executed
- If `LOCATE` fails, subcommand is not executed
- Reduces terminal I/O (useful on slow lines!)

"Programming" via Chained LOCATEs

- Allow primitive programming without macros:
  `/:h1./&/Topics/ 1 c/:h3./:h2./`
- This command:
  1. Locates next line containing `:h1.` and
     `Topics`
  2. Moves to next line
  3. Changes `:h3.` to `:h2.`
  4. `CHANGE` is executed only if `LOCATE`
     successful

Chained LOCATEs and REPEAT

- Use chained **LOCATEs** with **REPEAT** for complex operations:

  ```
  /:h1./&/Topics/ 1 c/:h3./:h2./
  repeat *
  ```

- Same as previous, but repeated through rest of file

UPPercase/LOWercase — Convert Text

- Convert one or more lines to upper/lower case
- Text between `ZONE` columns is changed
- Useful after text uppercased by
  `SET CASE UPPER`

XEDIT on Other Platforms

- KEDIT — Mansfield Software Group
  - XEDIT for Windows, MS-DOS, OS/2
  - Very similar to CMS XEDIT
  - Extensions exploit workstation capabilities
  - Mature, popular product
  - Macros use Rexx or KEXX (built-in REXX subset)
  - Windows version beautifully merges Windows and 3270 paradigms: intuitive, configurable — *usable!*
  - www.kedit.com offers many powerful macros

XEDIT on Other Platforms

- THE — The Hessling Editor
  - Freeware UNIX editor by Mark Hessling
  - Modeled on XEDIT, with KEDIT DOS influences
  - Uses Rexx macros
  - Includes ISPF compatibility features
  - Check out www.lightlink.com/hessling/
- uni-Xedit — The Workstation Group
  - XEDIT for UNIX
  - uni-Rexx, uni-SPF also available
  - Check out www.wrkgrp.com

Conclusions

- XEDIT is powerful, rich in function
- Inexperienced users can add skills easily
- Learning more about it increases productivity
- Clones enable skills transfer to other platforms
- Read the manual!
- Note unfamiliar facilities, try them
- Experimenting is fun and easy!

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