

A Short Description of Useful Features of NEdit when Programming in Fortran 90

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NOTE - When using drop down menus the / will be used to denote the need for another menu (i.e. clicking File then Open will be written as File|Open etc.)

I. BASIC COMMANDS

NEdit is loaded up from an xterm window with the command:

```
nedit
```

This will open a blank document.

If you wanted to open an existing file, e.g. called `readme.txt`;

```
nedit readme.txt
```

or

```
nedit readme.txt &
```

You could also;

```
nedit
```

then use File|Open... to open the file you want.

The & symbol allows the xterm to be used whilst NEdit is being used. If the & symbol is not typed when NEdit is loaded the xterm is out of use until the NEdit program being run by that window is closed down.

You can also open more than one file in the same command

```
nedit readme.txt program.f90
```

the file extension does not matter when opening files, as long as the file contains text or numbers NEdit should open it. It can also open very large files, some as big as 130 Mb or more, or files with literally a million lines. However it does take a while to load these large files.

In Search there are a number of useful commands, Search|Find, Search|Find Again, Search|Replace and Search|Replace Again. When programming Search|Goto Line Number is especially helpful.

These commands also have their keyboard shortcuts which are listed next to them in the menus.

the standard Ctrl+x,c,v (cut, copy, paste) also work.

II. USING NEDIT TO PROGRAM IN FORTRAN 90

NEdit was designed with programming in mind. Preferences|Language Mode will allow you to select the language that NEdit recognises. However before that you may have to select the colouring and style that NEdit uses.

Go to: Preferences|Default Settings|Syntax Highlighting|Text Drawing Styles...

You will have a list of different types of text, e.g. New, Plain, Comment, Keyword etc. These may already have options in them, but they can be changed. Personally I prefer;

Plain : Black (font=plain)
Comment: *Red* (font=*italic*)
Keyword: **Blue** (font=**bold**)
String: darkGreen (font=plain)

After changing click OK

There are a number of other options but these are the ones which are most used.

After changing the setting you will have to save them:

Preferences|Save Defaults...

Then click OK; which saves the defaults to the `.nedit` file in your home directory and is loaded each time NEdit is loaded.

You will also have to tell NEdit to use the above changes when programming;

Preferences|Default Settings|Syntax Highlighting|On

When you first start programming without saving the file you will have to manually tell NEdit which language you are using (and therefore which words to highlight etc.); Preferences|Language Mode|Fortran; but when you save your file (or load a file) with the correct file extension NEdit automatically implements the language mode.

I can also direct you to the Help files which are clearly labeled from the Help menu in the top right corner.