
Subject: Re: Free source code diagramming programs
Posted by [Al Balmer](#) on Thu, 13 Apr 2006 17:27:37 GMT
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On 13 Apr 2006 10:03:07 -0700, "mitch grunes" <idlwizard-1@yahoo.com> wrote:

>> Well... my favourite text editor already does what your program do and
>> does it live while I'm editing code...
>
> Are you talking about the EMACS editor?

Many modern program editors do it. Most are easier to learn than emacs <g>.

> I confess I'm not smart enough
> to learn it well, and when I tried it it did some things I didn't
> expect. I prefer simpler editors that only do predictable things.
> Perhaps it is because I never learned much LISP.
>
> I do remember EMACS did something right - you could make it jump to the
> beginning or end of the current block - at least if you trust the code
> block structure to be correct. When you are fixing that struture in
> someone else's code, you don't want your text editor to be so "smart"
> it won't let you. (Taking again the example of debugging tens of
> thousands of lines of legacy code that doesn't quite work right.)
>
> Pretty printers (auto-indentation, etc.) lose a lot of information,
> when you are trying to fix such,

Could you elaborate on this? What information is lost by reformatting?

> and tend to mess up comments,
> especially when the author carefully lined up the columns of his/her
> comments or code in some sort of table.

That can happen, but some (most?) reformatters can be told to leave comments alone.

> So I leave the source code
> intact, and create seperate diagrams.
>
> I've written a lot of operational code over the last 25 years that ran
> various places and was sometimes embedded in ship, air and space-borne
> platforms. Sometimes I've had to debug monsters. (Like the pretty lady
> said, professionals do what they are paid to do.

As a professional, I've often considered it my duty to educate those

who tell me what to do ;-)

> Though, at the moment,
> I am between jobs.) I've found these tools useful. But every programmer
> has their own way of working. If you don't like mine, don't use it!

--

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