

Installing Emacs on Windows XP

1. If you haven't already, install Petite Chez Scheme on your system (get it here: <http://www.scheme.com>).
2. Obtain the Emacs tarball by going here: <http://ftp.gnu.org/gnu/emacs/windows/emacs-21.3-bin-i386.tar.gz>
3. If you don't have a tarball extractor, UltimateZip is a good freeware program to have in general anyway. Get it here: <http://www.ultimatezip.com> and install it.
4. Extract the tarball. The best way to do this is to
 - a. open UltimateZip,
 - b. drag the Emacs tarball icon from the desktop into the UltimateZip window,
 - c. drag the archive file *inside* the original archive back onto the desktop,
 - d. drag the archive file you just put on the desktop back into the UltimateZip window.
5. You should now see a long list of files within the UltimateZip window. Extract them to **C:\Program Files** and close UltimateZip.
6. With Windows File Explorer, navigate to **C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3\bin** and run **addpm.exe**. Click "Yes" to the dialog.
7. Next, copy **runemacs.exe**, navigate to a convenient place where you want to load Emacs from, right-click there, and select "Paste Shortcut". Right-click the new shortcut, go to Properties, and change the "Start In" textbox to where you want to save all of your C311 source files. I like to use **C:\Documents and Settings\<username>\My Documents\C311**.
8. Now, go to the Control Panel -> System dialog box, and under the Advanced tab, go to Environment Variables (at the bottom).
9. Under "User Variables ...", go to Add.
10. The environment variable should be called HOME, and the value is **C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3**.
11. If there is no PATH user variable, add one, and its value should be set to the Petite Chez Scheme executable directory (wherever petite.exe is), usually **C:\Program Files\Chez Scheme Version 7.0a\bin\i3nt**. (If there is a PATH variable, add the directory value above by adding a ";" separator after the last entry in the variable and then pasting the value after the separator.
12. Download the **.emacs** and **.emacs.d** files from the C311 website: http://www.cs.indiana.edu/classes/c311/emacs/dot_emacs_full and http://www.cs.indiana.edu/classes/c311/emacs/dot_emacs_dot_d.zip.
13. Open dot_emacs_full.txt (Windows will save it as a .txt file) with Notepad, and resave it as "**C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3\emacs**" (with the quotes!).
14. Open dot_emacs_dot_d.zip with UltimateZip, click "Extract", and extract it to "**C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3\emacs.d**" (with the quotes!).
15. In File Explorer, go to **C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3\emacs.d**. There is actually a separate folder inside called **dot_emacs_dot_d**; move all the files inside this directory to the **.emacs.d** directory instead, and delete the **dot_emacs_dot_d** directory.

Congratulations! You should now have a working Emacs install on your Windows machine. You can check if Emacs is set up correctly by:

1. Running Emacs with your shortcut and verifying that Emacs starts with a **dark blue screen**.
2. Typing C-x C-f (Control-X, then Control-F), and verifying that the directory at the bottom of Emacs' screen is the same as the "Start In" box of your Emacs shortcut.
3. Typing M-x run-scheme <enter>, and verifying that Petite Chez Scheme starts up within Emacs.

When Emacs Doesn't Work After All These Steps

Verify all of the following:

1. Petite Chez Scheme is installed (usually at **C:\Program Files\Chez Scheme Version 7.0a**).
2. Emacs is installed (usually at **C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3**).
3. Your .emacs file exists within the root Emacs directory (usually at **C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3\emacs**).
4. Your .emacs.d directory exists within the root Emacs directory (usually at **C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3\emacs.d**), and there are a bunch of *.el files within it (rather than another directory called dot_emacs_dot_d).
5. The HOME environment variable contains a string value of the Emacs root directory (usually **C:\Program Files\emacs-21.3**).
6. The PATH environment variable contains a string value of the Petite Chez Scheme executable directory (usually at **C:\Program Files\Chez Scheme Version 7.0a\bin\i3nt**).
7. Within the .emacs file, there is a line (add-to-list 'load-path "~/.emacs.d"). Sometimes it will not have the "~/" in it, so you need to edit the file and add the "~/" to this line.
8. Your Emacs shortcut points to runemacs.exe (usually at **C:\Program Files\emacs21.3\bin\runemacs.exe**), and the "Start In" textbox points to your C311 directory (usually somewhere in **My Documents**).

Some More Emacs Fun

- If you don't like the directory names or you're a freak file organizer like myself, **rename at your own risk!** Make sure you replace EVERY occurrence of the directory name you change within these guidelines.
- You can change a lot of the attributes of Emacs by adding switches at the command line. These switches can be added to the "Target" box in your shortcut. Since I run my desktop at 2048x1536, I use "-g 250x92 -T Emacs" which changes the window geometry to 250x92 character units and the title of the window to "Emacs".