Re-Framing my Learning with Emacs
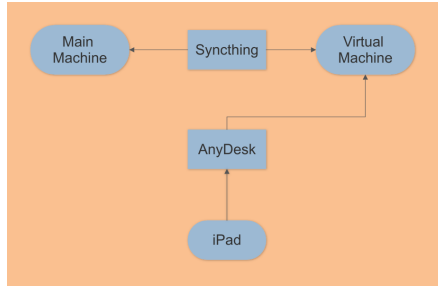
Theory - https://theoryware.net

2022-06-10

I wanted to utilize the tools I am used to.

- ▶ iPads, with web applications.
- ▶ Wasn't particularly efficient, useful, or easy.
- ▶ I don't have any Apple devices at home.
- ▶ For a digital solution, it was the "bare minimum".

The Ideal Requirements

- Easy to sort/access/edit/export.
- Fully offline, small file size.
- Easy to read the source, as well as the final product.
- Versatile export.

My First Go - Markdown

- ▶ Single file notes, written with Markdown.
- ▶ Published with pandoc, with its extra features as well.
- ▶ iPad as a thin client for a Virtual Machine to access notes.
- ▶ Synchronized with Host System.
- ▶ Network latency became a big issue with this setup.

- I suck at writing lisp.
- My configuration was slow (7+ second startup).
- My VM networking solution was even slower now.
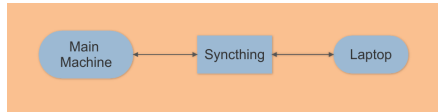
Doom provided everything I wanted

- ▶ Org-mode, a feature I *really* wanted
- ▶ Sane defaults with minimal required tooling.
- ▶ Great community and maintainer.
- ▶ Funny gaming reference

- ▶ Local machines and local work only.
- ▶ Syncs once systems are on the same network.
- ▶ No reliance on school's variable connectivity.

- Abstracts hidden directory structure
- Easily Create/Copy/Delete notes
- Query through files by title

"Topics" are usually a heading within topic file, relevant content nested underneath.

- ▶ A Heading is usually a note, assignment, or other important topic.
- ▶ Content is nested under each main heading.
- ▶ Generally categorized with similar topics.
- ▶ Notes are either in a file or capture template.

Capture templates I use to store things I want to remember, but without changing my focus.

▶ For things that I want to remember, but not lose focus on the current task.
▶ Stuff goes into either refile.org or notes.org
▶ Captured things are either refiled or discarded.

The main reason I liked org

- ▶ The export dispatcher is really powerful.
- ▶ You can customize it.
- ▶ It works really well with publishing.
- ▶ Subtree export.

Subtrees in a Topic file are individually exported.

This workflow was pretty cool and useful, but in hindsight

- ▶ I didn't interact with it much due to other factors
- ▶ A lot of stuff wasn't digital
- ▶ I only used this system for about 3/4ths of a simester

- Convenient "universal markup language"
- Project management
- Documenting/Organizing code
- Self documentation
- Betraying vim

Conclusion

I like org-mode and emacs now.