

Software tips for nerds

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Created *17/01/2020 - 5:59pm*

Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Friday 17th of January 2020 05:59:39 PM Filed under [GNU](#) [1] [Linux](#) [2] [Software](#) [3]



I use Vim for almost a decade now, which is probably the longest I've stuck to some application. During that time, I repeatedly tried to use it as an IDE but inevitably failed each time. Let's remember *eclim* as my Java IDE. I work almost exclusively on projects written in Python, which can be beautifully done in Vim but because of a gap in my skills, I was reliant on PyCharm. Thankfully, not anymore.

My biggest issue was misusing tabs instead of buffers and poor navigation within projects. Reality check, do you open one file per tab? This is a common practice in other text editors, but please know that this is not the purpose of tabs in Vim and you should be using buffers instead. Please, give them a chance and read *Buffers, buffers, buffers*.

Regarding project navigation, have you ever tried *shift shift search* in PyCharm or other JetBrains IDE? It's exactly that thing, that you wouldn't even imagine but after using it for the first time, you don't understand how you lived without. What it does is, that it interactively fuzzy-finds files and tags (classes, functions, etc) that matches your input, so you can easily open them. In my opinion, this unquestionably defeats any other way of project navigation like using a file manager, *NerdTree*, or *find* in the command line.

Fortunately, both of these problems can be solved by *fzf.vim*, which quickly became one of my most favorite Vim

plugins. Please read this section about fzf plugin.

I am forever grateful to Ian Langworth for writing VIM AFTER 11 YEARS, EVERYTHING I MISSED IN ?VIM AFTER 11 YEARS? and VIM AFTER 15 YEARS articles. If you are a Vim user, those are an absolute must-read.

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