

M.I.T. LABORATORY FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE

June 17, 1980

Computer Systems Research Division

Requests for Comments No. 190

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEXT EDITORS OR A COOKBOOK FOR EMACS

by Craig A. Finseth

An undergraduate thesis with the above title has been completed. An abstract of the thesis follows.

Since the thesis is rather long, it is not being distributed as an RFC directly. Anyone desiring a copy may contact:

Debby Fagin
M.I.T. Laboratory for Computer Science, NE43-512
545 Technology Square
Cambridge, MA 02139

(617) 253-6002

DJF@MIT-XX

ABSTRACT

A comprehensive summary of the available technology for implementing text editors. It is written to be a guide for the implementor of a text editor. It does not provide a finished, polished algorithm for any part of a text editor. Rather, it provides a breakdown of the problems involved and discusses the pitfalls and the available tradeoffs to be considered when designing a text editor. Specific reference is made to the relevant tradeoffs for an Emacs-type editor, a character-oriented extensible display editor.

This note is an informal working paper of the M.I.T. Laboratory for Computer Science. It should not be reproduced without the author's permission, and it should not be cited in other publications.