



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'emacsclient.1'

\$ man emacsclient.1

EMACSCIENT(1) GNU EMACSCIENT(1)

NAME

emacsclient - tells a running Emacs to visit a file

SYNOPSIS

emacsclient [options] files ...

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents briefly the emacsclient command. Full documentation is available in the GNU Info format; see below.

emacsclient works in conjunction with the built-in Emacs server.

You can either call emacsclient directly or let other programs run it for you when neces?

sary. On GNU and Unix systems many programs consult the environment variable EDITOR (some? times also VISUAL) to obtain the command used for editing. Thus, setting this environment variable to 'emacsclient' will allow these programs to use an already running Emacs for editing. Other operating systems might have their own methods for defining the default edi? tor.

For emacsclient to work, you need an already running Emacs with a server. Within Emacs, call the functions "server-start" or "server-mode". (Your ".emacs" file can do this auto? matically if you add either "(server-start)" or "(server-mode 1)" to it.)

When you've finished editing the buffer, type "C-x #" ("server-edit"). This saves the file and sends a message back to the emacsclient program telling it to exit. The programs that use EDITOR wait for the "editor" (actually, emacsclient) to exit. "C-x #" also checks for other pending external requests to edit various files, and selects the next such file.

If you set the variable "server-window" to a window or a frame, "C-x #" displays the server

buffer in that window or in that frame.

OPTIONS

Most options follow the usual GNU command line syntax, with long options starting with two dashes ("-").

`+line[:column]`

Go to the specified line and column. A missing column is treated as column 1. This option applies only to the next file specified.

`-a, --alternate-editor=COMMAND`

If the Emacs server is not running, run the specified shell command instead. If the empty string is specified, run "emacs --daemon" to start Emacs in daemon mode, and try to connect to it.

See also the `ALTERNATE_EDITOR` environment variable, over which this option takes precedence.

`-c, --create-frame`

Create a new frame instead of trying to use the current Emacs frame.

`-r --reuse-frame`

Reuse an existing frame if one exists, otherwise create a new frame.

`-F, --frame-parameters=ALIST`

Set the parameters of a newly-created frame.

`-d, --display=DISPLAY`

Tell the server to display the files on the given display.

`-e, --eval`

Do not visit files but instead evaluate the arguments as Emacs Lisp expressions.

`-f, --server-file=FILENAME`

Use TCP configuration file `FILENAME` for communication. Relative filenames are relative to `~/emacs.d/server/` or `$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/emacs/server/`, and the default is "server".

See also the `EMACS_SERVER_FILE` environment variable, over which this option takes precedence.

`-n, --no-wait`

Return immediately without waiting for you to "finish" the buffer in Emacs. If combined with `--eval`, this option is ignored.

`-w, --timeout=N`

How long to wait, in seconds, for Emacs to respond before giving up. The default is 0, which means to wait forever.

`--parent-id=ID`

Open an emacsclient frame as a client frame in the parent X window with id ID.

`-q, --quiet`

Do not let emacsclient display messages about waiting for Emacs or connecting to remote server sockets.

`-u, --suppress-output`

Do not let emacsclient display results returned from the server. Mostly useful in combination with `--eval` when the evaluation performed is for side-effect rather than result.

`-s, --socket-name=FILENAME`

Use socket named FILENAME for communication. Relative filenames are relative to "\$XDG_RUNTIME_DIR/emacs/" or "\$TMPDIR/".

See also the `EMACS_SOCKET_NAME` environment variable, over which this option takes precedence.

`-nw, -t, --tty, --no-window-system`

Open a new Emacs frame on the current terminal.

`-T, --tramp=PREFIX`

Set PREFIX to add to filenames for Emacs to locate files on remote machines using TRAMP. This is mostly useful in combination with using the Emacs server on a remote host (either using TCP with `--server-file`, or a socket forwarded over SSH).

See also the `EMACSCIENT_TRAMP` environment variable, over which this option takes precedence.

`-V, --version`

Print version information and exit.

`-H, --help`

Print this usage information message and exit.

EXIT STATUS

Normally, the exit status is 0. If emacsclient shuts down due to Emacs signaling an error, the exit status is 1.

ENVIRONMENT

`ALTERNATE_EDITOR`

If the Emacs server is not running, run the shell command in this environment variable instead. If set to the empty string, run "emacs --daemon" to start Emacs in daemon mode, and try to connect to it. Will be overridden by the --alternate-editor option, if present.

EMACSCIENT_TRAMP

A prefix to add to filenames, intended to allow Emacs to locate files on remote machines using TRAMP. Will be overridden by the --tramp option, if present.

EMACS_SERVER_FILE

Look in this file to discover where to find a TCP Emacs server. Relative filenames are relative to "~/.emacs.d/server/" or "\$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/emacs/server/", and the default is "server". Will be overridden by the --server-file option, if present.

EMACS_SOCKET_NAME

The filename of the socket to use for communication with the Emacs server. Relative filenames are relative to "\$XDG_RUNTIME_DIR/emacs/" or "\$TMPDIR/". Will be overridden by the --socket-name option, if present.

SEE ALSO

The program is documented fully in Using Emacs as a Server available via the Info system.

The XDG_ environment variables are described in detail in the XDG Base Directory Specification.

AUTHOR

This manual page was originally written by Stephane Bortzmeyer <bortzmeyer@debian.org>, for the Debian GNU/Linux system, but is not specific to that system.

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