

Redcar Plugin Development

JRuby plugins for the Redcar editor

Matthew Bennett
eshopworks Ltd.
@undecisive

matthew@quickwebdesign.net

Or...

Customise Your Environment

How redcar might just change your life

Matthew Bennett
eshopworks Ltd.

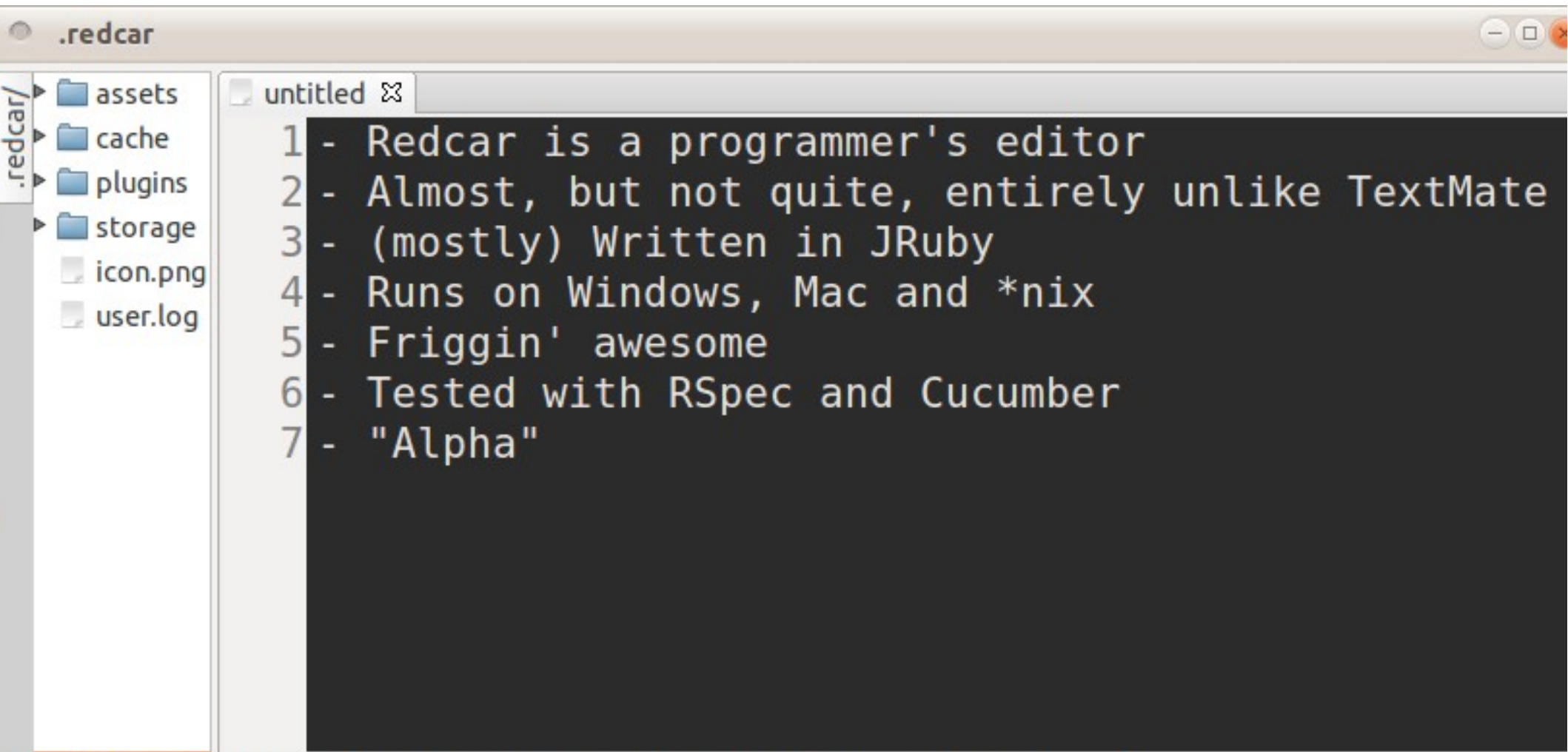
@undecisive

matthew@quickwebdesign.net

For today's trick...

- What is redcar?
- Why use redcar over `<x>`
- Why write plugins for it?
- How to write plugins

What is redcar?



Computer-crashin' time...

here's a quick demo...

How Redcar compares to...

- Textmate
 - Open Source
 - Works on Linux and Windows
- Eclipse / Netbeans / Redmine
 - Less features, but more lightweight and responsive
 - Similar startup times unfortunately
- Emacs / Vim
 - These are perfect, but really, don't you wish you were using something a little more... ruby?

Have you got any red?

- Installation is really really hard
 - You need a ruby environment installed (any will do)
 - (sudo) gem install redcar
 - redcar install
- Oh, wait, no it isn't.
- For troubleshooting, go to:
 - <https://github.com/redcar/redcar/wiki/installation>
 - The only problem I had was forgetting to install java first. That error message isn't very clear.

Why write a plugin?

- Customize your environment
- How else would you extend it?
- ... also, the satisfaction of knowing you can

How to write plugins

- **Step 1: Describe your plugin**

Describe your plugin

```
1 Plugin.define do
2   name      "Plugin of Awesome"
3   version   "0.1"
4   file      "plugin_of_awesome"
5   object    "PluginOfAwesome"
6
7   dependencies "redcar", ">0"
8 end
```

We'll load
plugin_of_awesome.rb

We'll look for the
PluginOfAwesome
module

Put this in /path/to/my_plugin/plugin.rb

How to write plugins

- Step 1: Describe your plugin
- **Step 2: Write a Command**

Write a command

```
1 module PluginOfAwesomeness
2   class NiceCommand < Redcar::EditTabCommand
3     def execute
4       Redcar::Application::Dialog.message_box(
5         "#{doc.path} is just MADE of awesome!"
6       )
7     end
8   end
9 end
```

Types of command

- You might wish to extend:
 - Redcar::EditTabCommand and Redcar::DocumentCommand
 - For operations on editable tabs
 - Gives you the method “doc”
 - Will even grey out the menu item for you
 - Redcar::TabCommand
 - Will gray out if there are no tabs open / focussed
- And, if all else fails...
 - Redcar::Command
 - Everything extends this

How to write plugins

- Step 1: Describe your plugin
- Step 2: Write a Command
- **Step 3: Write a menu item**

Write a menu item

```
1 module PluginOfAwesomeness
2   def self.menus
3     Redcar::Menu::Builder.build do
4       sub_menu "Plugins" do
5         sub_menu "Quick Sorter" do
6           item "Be awesome", NiceCommand
7         end
8       end
9     end
10  end
11  class NiceCommand < Redcar::EditTabCommand
```

... etc

How to write plugins

- Step 1: Describe your plugin
- Step 2: Write a Command
- Step 3: Write a menu item
- **Step 4: Load your plugin**

Plugin install!

```
In -s /full/path/to/my_plugin/ ~/.redcar/plugins/my_plugin
```

Restart Redcar

How to write plugins

- Step 1: Describe your plugin
- Step 2: Write a Command
- Step 3: Write a menu item
- Step 4: Load your plugin
- **Step 5: Fail miserably**

... and fail.

- Nothing's happened?
 - In the menu go to Plugins => Plugin Manager
 - If it isn't in the main list, scroll to the bottom of the page
- Look at the output
 - Run redcar from the command-line*
- Runnaway processes?
 - There's a task manager in the "Debug" menu

* is there any other way?

How to write plugins

- Step 1: Describe your plugin
- Step 2: Write a Command
- Step 3: Write a menu item
- Step 4: Load your plugin
- Step 5: Fail miserably
- **Step 6: Fix, reload, repeat**

Fix it!

- Fix it, and click “Reload” in the plugin manager
- Sometimes reload doesn't work – restart redcar

Other things you can do

- Create tabs
- Create HTML tabs / views
- Create context menu items
- Create tree controllers
- Change the criteria for showing a command (“sensitize”)
- Test drive your plugin

Read the documentation

... aka "Code"

Sources of info

- <http://github.com/redcar/redcar> (check it out!)
- <http://redcaeditor.com/> (Links to rdoc too)
- Twitter: [@_redcar](https://twitter.com/_redcar) (with an underscore...)
- <http://danlucraft.com/blog/> (some useful posts)

Summary

- **Customize your environment**
- Redcar is awesome – use it
- Make everything a plugin

Any questions?



Q&A

- Are all textmate bundles / themes supported?
 - Supposedly, textmate snippets, syntax definitions and themes are supported. Not tried myself
 - <https://github.com/redcar/redcar/wiki/User's-Guide---Bundles-and-Themes>