



HighOn.Coffee

[HOME](#)[BLOG](#)

# Vi Cheat Sheet ∞

**CHEAT-SHEET**

01 Nov 2015



Arr0way

A collection of Vi commands in a cheat sheet, handy reference document for learning / remembering Vi commands. I refer to Vim / Vi as the same thing in this document, but in most modern Linux distros vi is often a symlink to vim.

It's worth learning Vi as it's installed on pretty much every

## Table of Contents

- [Vim Resources](#)
- [Vi Insert mode & Command Mode](#)
  - [Vi Insert Mode](#)
  - [Vi Command Mode](#)
- [Vi File Navigation](#)
  - [Move up, down, left and right in Vim](#)
  - [Vi Page Down](#)
  - [Vi Half a Page Down](#)
  - [Vi Page Up](#)

[All Blog](#)[Cheat Sheets](#)[Techniques](#)[Security Hardening](#)[WalkThroughs](#)

## CHEAT SHEETS

[Penetration Testing Tools Cheat Sheet](#)[LFI Cheat Sheet](#)[Vi Cheat Sheet](#)[Systemd Cheat Sheet](#)[Reverse Shell Cheat Sheet](#)[nbtscan Cheat Sheet](#)[Nmap Cheat Sheet](#)[Linux Commands Cheat](#)

Linux base system out there.

If you're learning Vi, you might want to check out [Vim Adventures](#) - an online adventure game that uses Vi commands.

## Vim Resources

- [Vi Cheat Sheet](#)
- [Good looking Vim Themes](#)
- [NullMode's personal Vim Settings](#)
- [Vim Casts](#)

Enjoy the cheat sheet :)

## Vi Insert mode & Command Mode

- [Vi Half a Page Up](#)
- [More Advanced Ways of Entering Insert Mode](#)
  - [Vi Insert Text at Start of the Line](#)
  - [Vi Insert Text at the end of the Line](#)
  - [Vi Append text to the right of the Cursor](#)
  - [Begin a new line below](#)
  - [Vi replace line](#)
- [Vi Replace](#)
  - [Change a Word in Vi](#)
  - [Replace line, but not wrapped text](#)
  - [Vi Replace Character](#)
  - [Vi Replace](#)
- [Vi Delete](#)
  - [Vi Delete Single Character After the Cursor](#)
  - [Vi Delete Character before the Cursor](#)
  - [Vi Delete Word](#)
- [Vi Delete Line commands](#)
  - [Vi Delete Line](#)
  - [Vi Delete until end of Line](#)
  - [Delete to end of screen](#)

[Sheet](#)  
[More »](#)

### WALKTHROUGHS

---

[InsomniHack CTF Teaser - Smartcat2 Writeup](#)  
[InsomniHack CTF Teaser - Smartcat1 Writeup](#)  
[FristiLeaks 1.3 Walkthrough](#)  
[SickOS 1.1 - Walkthrough](#)  
[The Wall Boot2Root Walkthrough](#)  
[More »](#)

### TECHNIQUES

---

[SSH & Meterpreter Pivoting Techniques](#)  
[More »](#)

### SECURITY HARDENING

---

[Security Harden CentOS](#)

Vi has two basic modes, **insert mode** - used for entering text and **command mode**, used for entering commands. See the tip section below for switching between each mode.

## Vi Insert Mode

Enter vi insert mode, insert mode is used for inserting text.

- Delete to end of file
- Vi Delete From Cursor To Start of Line
- Vi Copy and Paste
  - Vi Copy Line
  - Vi Copy 3 Lines of Text
  - Vi Copy Word
  - Vi Copy 3 Words
  - Vi Paste Commands
- Vi Search Commands
  - Vi Search forward
  - Vi Search Back
- Vi Search and Replace Commands
  - Vi Search and Replace First Instance
  - Vi Search and Replace on a Single Line
  - Vi Search and Replace Entire File
  - Vi Search for part of a Word
  - Vi Search for words ending with \$string
  - Vi Search for Metacharacters
  - Vi Exact Match Search Only
  - Vi Search for a range of Strings
  - Vi Search for Upper and Lowercase

7  
More »

### /DEV/URANDOM

MacBook - Post Install  
Config + Apps  
More »

### OTHER BLOG

HowTo: Kali Linux  
Chromium Install for  
Web App Pen Testing  
Jenkins RCE via  
Unauthenticated API  
MacBook - Post Install  
Config + Apps  
enum4linux Cheat Sheet  
Linux Local Enumeration  
Script  
HowTo Install Quassel on  
Ubuntu  
HowTo Install KeepNote  
on OSX Mavericks


- Advanced Vi commands
  - Vi View Options
  - Vi Run Shell Commands
  - Vi Joining Lines
  - Vi Split Windows
    - Vi Split Window Horizontally
    - Vi Split Window Virtically
  - Vi Close All Split Windows
- Vi Save commands
  - How to Save in Vi
  - Vi Save and Exit
- Misc Vi Commands
  - Vi Undo Command
  - Vi Undo All
- Vi Show File Name
- Vi Multipliers

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
i	Enter insert mode from command mode.

## ★ Vi Command Mode - Vi Insert Mode

Vi has two modes, **insert mode** for inserting text and **command mode** a common mistake is attempting to edit in command mode. If you are unsure on what mode Vi is using double tap escape (enters command mode) and then hit "i" if you wish to enter insert mode.

## Vi Command Mode

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
	Hit escape to enter command mode.

## Vi File Navigation

Basic file navigation, how to move up, down, left and right.

## ★ Arrow Keys

Modern Vi / Vim editors will allow you to use the arrow keys, but it's worth learning the correct way to navigate vi without using the arrow keys in case you come across Vi command line or a shell that doesn't like arrow keys.

## Move up, down, left and right in Vim

You'll need to be in command mode for these commands, navigation in vi uses **h j k l**

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>h</b>	Move left - easy to remember h key is on the left
<b>j</b>	Move down - I remember it with j(d)own for down
<b>k</b>	Move up - k for up - I remember it with (k)up
<b>l</b>	Move right - l is on the right side of hjkl and moves you right

## Vi Page Down

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>Ctrl+F</b>	Vi move forward a page

## Vi Half a Page Down

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

**Ctrl+D**

Vi move half a page down

## Vi Page Up

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>Ctrl+B</b>	Vi move up a page

## Vi Half a Page Up

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>Ctrl+U</b>	Vi move up half a page

## More Advanced Ways of Entering Insert Mode

### Vi Insert Text at Start of the Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>I</b>	Insert text at the beginning of the line

## Vi Insert Text at the end of the Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>A</b>	Appends text at the end of the line

## Vi Append text to the right of the Cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>a</b>	Appends text to the right of the cursor

## Begin a new line below

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>o</b>	Begin a new line, below the current line

## Vi replace line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>O</b>	Removes line, and allows you to type a new line in it's place



# Vi Replace

## Change a Word in Vi

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>cw</code>	Replaces a single word, place cursor on first letter and hit cw (Change Word)

## Replace line, but not wrapped text

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>c\$</code>	Replaces the current line but doesn't extend to change the rest of a wrapped sentence on the screen

## Vi Replace Character

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>r</code>	Replaces only the character under the cursor

## Vi Replace

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>R</b>	Replaces over the top of existing text, until the user hits return.

## Vi Delete

### Vi Delete Single Character After the Cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>x</b>	Vi deletes single character after the cursor

### Vi Delete Character before the Cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>X</b>	Vi deletes character before the cursor.

### Vi Delete Word

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>dw</b>	Vi Delete Word, deleted the word under the cursor, from the cursor

position onward

# Vi Delete Line commands

## Vi Delete Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>dd</b>	Delete the current line in Vi

## Vi Delete until end of Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>D</b>	Deletes from cursor to end of line

## Delete to end of screen

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>dL</b>	Deletes from cursor to end of screen

## Delete to end of file

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>dG</code>	Deletes from cursor to end of file

## Vi Delete From Cursor To Start of Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>d^</code>	Deletes from cursor to start of line

## Vi Copy and Paste

### Vi Copy Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>yy</code>	Copies current line into unnamed buffer

### Vi Copy 3 Lines of Text

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>3yy</code>	Copy 3 lines of text into unnamed buffer

## Vi Copy Word

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>yw</code>	Copy word under cursor into unnamed buffer

## Vi Copy 3 Words

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>3yw</code>	Copy 3 words into unnamed buffer

## Vi Paste Commands

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>P</code>	Copy contents of unamed buffer to right of cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>p</code>	Copy contents of unamed buffer to left of cursor

## Vi Search Commands

## Vi Search forward

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>N</b>	Vi search forward in file

## Vi Search Back

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>SHIFT+N</b>	Vi search backward in file

## Vi Search and Replace Commands

### Vi Search and Replace First Instance

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>:s/find-string/replace-string/</b>	Vi search and replace first instance of specified string

### Vi Search and Replace on a Single Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
------------	-------------

`:s/find-string/replace-string/g`

Vi search and replace all instances of specified string on current line

## Vi Search and Replace Entire File

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>:%s/find-string/replace-string/g</code>	Vi search and replace all instances of specified string for entire file

## Vi Search for part of a Word

A fuzzy search allows you to find something that you only know part of, for example if you wanted to find all instances of lines starting with the word “Picard” you would use the following:

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>/^Picard</code>	Vi search within file words starting with Picard

## Vi Search for words ending with \$string

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

`/worf$`

Vi search within file for word engine with worf

## Vi Search for Metacharacters

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>/\*</code>	Vi search within file for metacharacters like, *

## Vi Exact Match Search Only

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>/star\.</code>	Vi exact search only, will return instances of "star only", not starfleet or star-trek

## Vi Search for a range of Strings

Helpful for finding version numbers in text files.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>/v2.[1-9]</code>	Vi search for a range, this example would return all v2.1-9 instances within the file, e.g. v2.4 v2.7 etc



## Vi Search for Upper and Lowercase

Search for upper and lowercase strings in Vi.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>/ [tT] [hH] [eE]</code>	Vi search upper or lowercase strings, this example would return any instance of the word 'the'. e.g. The, THE, tHe, tHe

## Advanced Vi commands

### Vi View Options

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>:set all</code>	Lists all Vi options

### Vi Run Shell Commands

Run shell commands from Vi.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>:! ls -l</code>	Run shell command from Vi, in this example ls -l is executed

## Vi Joining Lines

Backspace doesn't always work...

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>SHIFT+J</b>	Position the cursor in either line you wish to join, and press <b>SHIFT+J</b>

## Vi Split Windows

Useful for comparing files, to switch between windows press **SHIFT+W**

### Vi Split Window Horizontally

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>:split</b>	Split window Horizontally in Vi

### Vi Split Window Virtically

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>:vsplit</b>	Split window Virtically in Vi

## Vi Close All Split Windows

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>:only</code>	Closes all split windows and focuses on the primary window

## Vi Save commands

### How to Save in Vi

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>:w</code>	Writes the file to disk

### Vi Save and Exit

How to save and exit Vi, personally I use `:wq`

</tr> </tr> </tr>

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>:wq</code>	Save and exit Vi
<code>:x</code>	Exit - Vi will prompt and ask if you wish to save
<code>SHIFT+ZZ</code>	Another way to Save and Exit Vi

**wq!**

Forces save on read only files, and exits

# Misc Vi Commands

## Vi Undo Command

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>U</b>	Press <b>SHIFT+U</b> to undo in Vi

## Vi Undo All

Vi undo all since last write.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>:+X+!</b>	Undo everything since last write

## Vi Show File Name

**SHIFT+G** shows the file name, number of lines and current position.

# Vi Multipliers

Almost every command in Vi can leverage multipliers, typically it's a case of prefixing the command with a number. Example: `10W` would move 10 words to the right.

## Share this on...

 Twitter  Facebook  Google+  Reddit

## Follow Arr0way

 Twitter  GitHub

## Also...