IT Scripting and Automation

Introduction to VIM Editor

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VIM Editor

- The **vim** editor has <u>three modes:</u>

- *command* mode,

- *insert* mode and

- *command* **line** mode.

- **Command mode**: letters or sequence of letters interactively command vim. Commands are case sensitive. The ESC key can end a command.

VIM Editor

- **Insert mode:** Text is inserted. The ESC key ends insert mode and returns you to command mode. One can enter insert mode with the
  - "i" (insert),
  - "a" (insert after),
  - "A" (insert at end of line),
  - "o" (open new line after current line) or
  - "O" (Open line above current line) commands.

- **Command line mode:** One enters this mode by typing ":" which puts the command line entry at the foot of the screen.

VIM Editor

Running/Starting Vim:

- To run vi and create a new file, simply run the command 'vim' from any shell prompt:
  - **$ vim**

Loading a file:

- Alternatively, to load an existing text file into vi, run the command 'vim [filename]', from the shell prompt:
  - **$ vim myfile.txt**

- To switch into insert mode, simply press the 'i' key

Returning to cmd mode:

- When you have finished typing, you may return to command mode. This is done by pressing your 'Esc' key. In command mode, key presses do not appear on the screen, but instead are used to indicate various commands to vi.

VIM Editor

<u>Saving</u>:

- to save the file. The command for this is ':w' (note the colon before the 'w'). After the 'w', put a space, and the name you want to store the file as. For example:
  - **:w firstfile**

<u>Closing/Quiting</u>:

- How to close the editor.
  - **:q**
- If you may have made changes to a file that you do not want to save.
  - **:q!**

Cursor Movement Commands

Keystrokes	Action
h/j/k/l	Move cursor left/down/up/right
Spacebar	Move cursor right one space
-/+	Move cursor down/up in first column
ctrl-d n ctrl-d	Scroll **d**own one half of a screen. Set scroll to "n" lines. New default set for half screen.
ctrl-u n ctrl-u	Scroll **u**p one half of a screen Set scroll to "n" lines. New default set for half screen.
W w 5w	Move cursor a **word** at a time (white space delimited) Move cursor a word at a time (first non-alphanumeric) Move cursor ahead 5 words
B b 5b	Move cursor **back** a word at a time (white space delimited) Move cursor back a word at a time (first non-alphanumeric) Move cursor back 5 words

Editing Commands (in command mode)

Keystrokes	Action
i	Insert at cursor. Puts you in insert mode. Must use esc key to terminate insert mode.
I	Insert before the cursor. Puts you in insert mode. Must use esc key to terminate insert mode.
yy	Yank a copy of this line and place in the clipboard
p	Put (paste) yanked or deleted line below current line
u	Undo last change
U	Undo all changes to entire line
dd 3dd	Delete line (stored in local buffer) Delete 3 lines (stored in local buffer).
X	Delete character at cursor
X	Delete character before cursor
ESC	Terminate insert mode. Terminates most other modes as well.

Exercise

- Exercise - Create a New File with the vim Editor
- 1.   Type: **vim simple**
- 2.   Type: **This is line1 - vi is simple to use, everybody can use it**
- 3.   Copy this line
- 4.   Paste it in four more times.
- 5.   Replace and line number so – it reads from line 1 to line 5.
- 6.   Replace simple into easy and fun.
- 7.   Insert the word 'Using' in front of the word vi of the 3rd and fourth lines.
- 8.   Save the file and call it simple.
- 9.   Quit the vim editor

References

- http://linuxconfig.org/vim-tutorial

- https://www.ccsf.edu/Pub/Fac/vi.html