

# Vi/Vim: Classic editors that can pack a punch

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vi : /V.I./, not /vi/

# How to learn vi productively

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learn as you go

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- classic Unix editor — part of the POSIX standard
- available on most Unix systems
- efficient editing for text typists. . . , e.g.
  - ddp — swap lines
  - xp — swap letters
- large files open *quickly*

# Why not

- unintuitive
- addictive
- puzzling for others

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- unintuitive
- addictive
- puzzling for others
- your mouse will feel lonely

# History

- Bill Joy @ UC Berkeley in 1976
- editor  $\Rightarrow$  extended  $\Rightarrow$  visual
- clones: Vim

# Modal interface

- normal mode
- command-line mode
- insert mode

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## Tip

Always use the Escape key (alternatively Control-[]). In Vim, show commands at the bottom of the screen using `:set showcmd`



# Handling files

- from the command line  
`vi [filename]`

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    `vi [filename]`
- quitting
  - `:q`
  - `:q!` or `ZQ`

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- from the command line  
    `vi [filename]`
- quitting
  - `:q`
  - `:q!` or `ZQ`
- saving
  - `:w [filename]`
  - `:w`
  - `:wq` and `:wq!` or `ZZ`
  - force overwrite: `:w!`

# Handling files

- from the command line  
    `vi [filename]`
- quitting
  - `:q`
  - `:q!` or `ZQ`
- saving
  - `:w [filename]`
  - `:w`
  - `:wq` and `:wq!` or `ZZ`
  - force overwrite: `:w!`
- opening files
  - `:e [filename]`

# Appeasing vi enough to actually take input

- Enter insert mode
- Before the cursor: `i`
- After the cursor: `a`
- `I`, `A`

# Navigating a file |

←  
h

↓  
j

↑  
k

→  
l

# Navigating a file II



Figure: ADM-3A terminal [Source: <http://www.tentacle.franken.de/adm3a/adm3a-4.html>]

# Navigating a file III

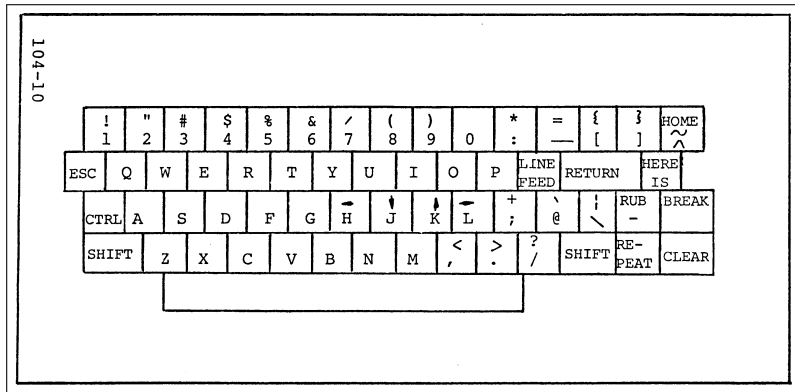


Figure: ADM-3A keyboard [Source: <http://vt100.net/lsi/adm3a-om/>, pg. 36]



# Navigating a file IV

- Skipping words: w, e, b
- Search
  - / : forwards; ? : backwards
- Vim set incsearch hlsearch
  - n, N
  - \*, #
- gg, G ; take a count before the command
- H, L, M
- Sentences: (, )
- Paragraphs: {, }
- Matching pair of braces: %
- Ends of line: 0, ^, \$
- Jump to characters: f, F, t, T, ; ,

# Wait, I need to change something

- in insert mode: Control-W, Control-U, Delete, Backspace
- r, R
- x, X
- d + motion; [Vim]: text objects
- D, dd
- c
- S

Vim : gu + motion , gU + motion

# Copy and pasta

- `y` + motion
- `yy`
- `p`, `P`
- registers
- in insert mode: `Control-E`, `Control-Y`

# Visual mode [Vim]

- v
- linewise: V
- blockwise: Control-V

# The edit, compile, run cycle [Vim]

- `:set makeprg, :compiler, :copen, :cnext, :cNext`
- `:set grepprg, :grep`

# Vi has a couple more tricks up its sleeve

- filter through pipe: `\%! [exec]`
- maps  
    `:nmap ,tw :set wrap!<CR>`
- abbreviations  
    `:abbr teh the`
- marks

# More complex changes

- repeat: .
- :substitute
- :global

## ...and Vim has many, many more

- scriptable
- swap files
- syntax highlighting
- extended regexps
- folds
- programmable indentation
- formatting
- directory viewer
- (S)FTP/HTTP/WebDAV
- compressed archives and files
- multi-level undo with branching
- split windows
- tabs
- ctags
- spell checking
- programmable completion
- jumps
- gf, Control-W gf
- Plugins
  - NERDTree, NERDCommenter
  - Taglist
  - BufExplorer, FuzzyFinder
  - A.vim, Align, Matchit
  - surround
  - Matrix



- vimtutor
- online :help
  - :help <Control-D>
  - :help <Tab>
  - :helpgrep [regexp]
- The Internet
- #vim IRC channel on Freenode
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- Me ☺

Questions?  
Complaints!