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FreeBSD install VIM text editor

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Q. Quick question – How do I install VIM text editor for my FreeBSD server? Currently it has old version of vi. I like vim as it is a highly configurable text editor and efficient one.



A. VIM (Vi IMproved) is not installed by default under FreeBSD. Vim is a text editor that is upwards compatible to Vi. It can be used to edit all kinds of plain text. It is especially useful for editing programs. You can install vim binary package or use FreeBSD's ports system.

Task: Install vim binary package

Type the following command to install vim lite version:

```
# pkg_add -r -v vim-lite
```

You can also use FreeBSD ports system to install vim:

```
# cd /usr/ports/editors/vim-lite/  
# make install clean
```

To start vim type command:

```
$ vim
```

You can also create a alias using alias command:

```
$ alias vi='vim'
```

Add above alias to your shell start up file such as `~/.bashrc` / `~/.cshrc`

Task: Setup global vimrc file

You need to copy default vimrc file from `/usr/local/share/vim/vim71/vimrc_example.vim` to `/usr/local/share/vim`:

```
# cp /usr/local/share/vim/vim71/vimrc_example.vim /usr/local/share/vimrc
```

Task: Personal ~/.vimrc file

You can customize `~/.vimrc` as per your requirements. Here is my own file:

```
$ cat ~/.vimrc
```

Sample output:

```
set nocompatible " must be the first line
filetype on
filetype indent on
filetype plugin on
set laststatus=2
set statusline=%<%f\%h%m%r%=-20.(line=%l\ \ col=%c%V\ \ totlin=%L%)\ \ \%h%m%r%=-40 (byte
```

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