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How To Show Line Numbers In vi / vim Text Editor

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

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Q. How do I display vi / vim text editor line numbers while writing a shell script or c program? How can I turn on or off this feature?

A. Displaying line numbers under vi / vim can be very useful for debugging code errors and to improve overall readability of a program.



vi / vim show line number command

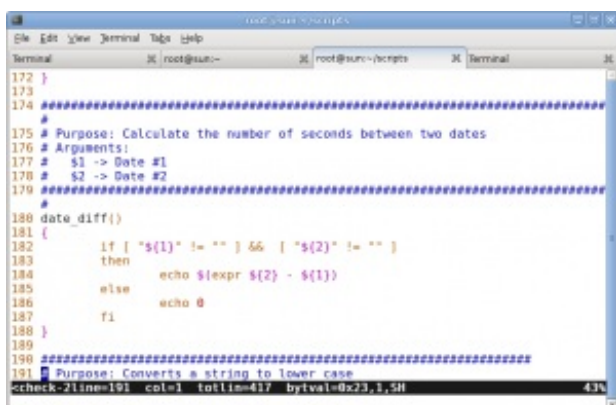
To display line numbers along the left side of a window, type any one of the following:

^[11]

```
:set number
```

or

```
:set nu
```



^[12]

(Fig.01: Vi / Vim line numbers in action - click to enlarge image)

To turn off line number again enter the same command:

```
:set nu!
```

If you need number every time you start vi/vim, append following line to your ~/.vimrc file:

```
set number
```

Save and close the file.

Jump to particular line number from a shell prompt, enter:

```
$ vi +linenumber file.c  
$ vi +300 initlib.c
```

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