

Vim (text editor)

Vim (/vɪm/^[4] a contraction of **Vi** **IM**proved) is a clone, with additions, of Bill Joy's vi text editor program for Unix. Vim's author, Bram Moolenaar, based it upon source code for a port of the Stevie editor to the Amiga^[5] and released a version to the public in 1991. Vim is designed for use both from a command-line interface and as a standalone application in a graphical user interface. Vim is free and open-source software and is released under a license that includes some charityware clauses, encouraging users who enjoy the software to consider donating to children in Uganda.^[6] The license is compatible with the GNU General Public License through a special clause allowing distribution of modified copies "under the GNU GPL version 2 or any later version".^[7]

Since its release for the Amiga, cross-platform development has made it available on many other systems. In 2006, it was voted the most popular editor amongst Linux Journal readers;^[8] in 2015 the Stack Overflow developer survey found it to be the third most popular text editor,^[9] and the fifth most popular development environment in 2018.^[10]

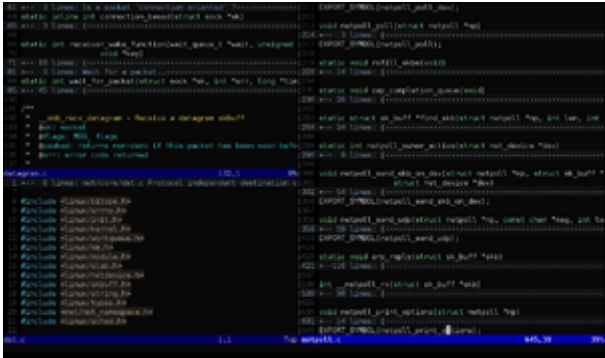
Contents

- History
- Interface
- Customization
- Features and improvements over vi
- Vim script
 - Examples
- Availability
- Neovim
- See also
- References
- External links

History

Bram Moolenaar began working on Vim for the Amiga computer in 1988. Moolenaar first publicly released Vim (v1.14) in 1991.^[11] Vim was based on an earlier editor, Stevie, for the Atari ST,^[1]

Vim



Vim running in a terminal emulator

Original author(s)	Bram Moolenaar
Initial release	2 November 1991 ^[1]
Stable release	8.1.0000 ^[2] (17 May 2018) [±] <div>(https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Latest_stable_software_release/Vim&action=edit)</div>
Repository	github.com/vim/vim (https://github.com/vim/vim)
Written in	C, Vim script
Operating system	Unix, Linux, Windows NT, macOS, iOS, Android, AmigaOS, MorphOS
Available in	English, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Persian, Polish, Russian, Spanish ^[3]
Type	Text editor
License	Free software (Vim License (https://vimhelp.org/uganda.a.txt.html#license)), charityware
Website	www.vim.org (https://www.vim.org/)

created by Tim Thompson, Tony Andrews, and G.R. (Fred) Walter.^{[12][13]}

The name "Vim" is an acronym for "*Vi IMproved*"^[14] because Vim is an extended version of the vi editor, with many additional features designed to be helpful in editing program source code. Originally, the acronym stood for "*Vi IMitation*", but that was changed with the release of Vim 2.0 in December 1993.^[15] A later comment states that the reason for changing the name was that Vim's feature set surpassed that of vi.^[16]

Release history

Date	Version	Changes and additions
June, 1987	N/A	Tim Thompson releases Stevie (ST editor for VI enthusiasts), a limited vi clone for the Atari ST, posting the source on <u>Usenet</u> . ^{[17][18]}
June, 1988	N/A	Tony Andrews improves Stevie, and ports it to <u>Unix</u> and <u>OS/2</u> , releasing version 3.10 on <u>Usenet</u> . ^{[17][19]}
1988	1.0	Bram Moolenaar creates Vi IMitation for the Amiga, based on Stevie, never publicly released
November 2, 1991	1.14 ^[16]	First public release for the <u>Amiga</u> on <u>Fred Fish</u> disk #591 ^[20]
1992	1.22 ^[16]	Port to <u>Unix</u> . Vim now competes with <u>vi</u> .
December 14, 1993	2.0 ^[15]	This is the first release using the name Vi IMproved .
August 12, 1994	3.0 ^[16]	Support for multiple windows
May 29, 1996	4.0 ^{[16][21]}	<u>Graphical user interface</u>
February 19, 1998	5.0 ^{[16][22]}	<u>Syntax highlighting</u> , basic <u>scripting</u> (user defined functions, commands, etc.)
April 6, 1998	5.1	<u>Bug</u> fixes, various improvements
April 27, 1998	5.2	Long line support, file browser, dialogs, popup menu, select mode, session files, user defined functions and commands, <u>Tcl</u> interface, etc.
August 31, 1998	5.3	Bug fixes, etc.
July 25, 1999	5.4	Basic file encryption, various improvements
September 19, 1999	5.5	Bug fixes, various improvements
January 16, 2000	5.6	New syntax files, bug fixes, etc.
June 24, 2000	5.7	New syntax files, bug fixes, etc.
May 31, 2001	5.8	New syntax files, bug fixes, etc.
September 26, 2001	6.0 ^{[16][23]}	<u>Folding</u> , <u>plugins</u> , multi-language, etc.
March 24, 2002	6.1	Bug fixes
June 1,	6.2	GTK2 and libgnome2 support, Arabic language support, :try command, minor

2003		features, bug fixes
June 7, 2004	6.3	Bug fixes, translation updates, mark improvements
October 15, 2005	6.4	Bug fixes, updates to Perl, Python, and Ruby support
May 7, 2006	7.0 ^[24]	Spell checking, code completion, tab pages (multiple viewports/window layouts), current line and column highlighting, undo branches, and more
May 12, 2007	7.1	Bug fixes, new syntax and runtime files, etc.
August 9, 2008	7.2 ^[25]	Floating point support in scripts, refactored screen drawing code, bug fixes, new syntax files, etc.
August 15, 2010	7.3	<u>Lua</u> support, Python3 support, <u>Blowfish</u> encryption, persistent undo/redo
August 10, 2013	7.4 ^[26]	A new, faster regular expression engine.
September 12, 2016	8.0 ^[27]	Asynchronous I/O support, jobs, lambdas, etc.
May 18, 2018	8.1 ^[28]	Terminal window support and terminal gdb plugin.

Interface

Like vi, Vim's interface is not based on menus or icons but on commands given in a text user interface; its GUI mode, **gVim**, adds menus and toolbars for commonly used commands but the full functionality is still expressed through its command line mode. Vi (and by extension Vim) tends to allow a typist to keep their fingers on the home row, which can be an advantage for a touch typist.^[29]

Vim has a built-in tutorial for beginners (accessible through the `vimtutor` command). There is also the Vim Users' Manual that details Vim's features and a (http://vimhelp.appspot.com/vim_faq.txt.html)FAQ. This manual can be read from within Vim, or found online.^{[30][31]}

Vim also has a built-in help facility (using the `:help` command) that allows users to query and navigate through commands and features.



Graphical Vim (gVim) under GTK+ 2.

Customization

Vim is highly customizable and extensible, making it an attractive tool for users that demand a large amount of control and flexibility over their text editing environment^[32]. Text input is facilitated by a variety of features designed to increase keyboard efficiency. Users can execute complex commands with "key mappings," which can be customized and extended. The "recording" feature allows for the creation of macros to automate sequences of keystrokes and call internal or user-defined functions and mappings. Abbreviations, similar to macros and key mappings, facilitate the expansion of short strings of text into longer ones and can also be used to correct mistakes. Vim also features an "easy" mode for users looking for a simpler text editing solution.^[33]

There are many [plugins](#) available that will extend or add new functionality to Vim. These complex scripts are usually written in Vim's internal scripting language, vimscript (also known as VimL).^[34] Vim also supports scripting using [Lua](#) (as of Vim 7.3), [Perl](#), [Python](#), [Racket](#)^[35] (formerly PLT Scheme), [Ruby](#), and [Tcl](#).

There are projects bundling together complex scripts and customizations and aimed at turning Vim into a tool for a specific task or adding a major flavour to its behaviour. Examples include [Cream](#), which makes Vim behave like a click-and-type editor, or VimOutliner, which provides a comfortable [outliner](#) for users of Unix-like systems.

Features and improvements over vi

Vim has a vi compatibility mode, but, when not in this mode, Vim has many enhancements over vi.^[36] However, even in compatibility mode, Vim is not entirely compatible with vi as defined in the [Single Unix Specification](#)^[37] and [POSIX](#) (e.g., Vim does not support vi's open mode, only visual mode). Vim has nevertheless been described as "very much compatible with Vi".^[38]

Some of Vim's enhancements include [completion](#), [comparison](#) and [merging](#) of files (known as vimdiff), a comprehensive integrated help system, extended [regular expressions](#), [scripting languages](#) (both native and through alternative scripting interpreters such as Perl, Python, Ruby, Tcl, etc.) including support for [plugins](#), a graphical user interface (known as gvim), limited [integrated development environment](#)-like features, [mouse](#) interaction (both with and without the GUI), [folding](#), editing of compressed or archived files in [gzip](#), [bzip2](#), [zip](#), and [tar](#) format and files over network protocols such as [SSH](#), [FTP](#), and [HTTP](#), session state preservation, [spell checking](#), [split](#) (horizontal and vertical) and tabbed windows, [Unicode](#) and other multi-language support, [syntax highlighting](#), trans-session command, search and cursor position [histories](#), multiple level and branching [undo/redo](#) history which can persist across editing sessions, and visual mode.

Vim script

Vim script (also called **vimscript** or **VimL**) is the [scripting language](#) built into Vim.^[39] Based on the [ex](#) editor language of the original [vi](#) editor, early versions of Vim added commands for control flow and function definitions. Since version 7, Vim script also supports more advanced data types such as [lists](#) and [dictionaries](#) and (a simple form of) [object-oriented programming](#). Built-in functions such as `map()` and `filter()` allow a basic form of [functional programming](#), and Vim script has [lambda](#) since version 8.0. Vim script is mostly written in an [imperative programming style](#).

Vim [macros](#) can contain a sequence of *normal-mode* commands, but can also invoke ex commands or functions written in Vim script for more complex tasks. Almost all extensions (called plugins or more commonly scripts) of the core Vim functionality are written in Vim script, but plugins can also utilize other interpreted languages like [Perl](#), [Python](#), [Lua](#), or [Ruby](#) (if support for them is compiled into the Vim binary).

Vim script files are stored in plain text format and the file name extension is `.vim`. There are libraries for Vim script available on www.vim.org (<http://www.vim.org/>) as Vim plugins. These plugins may be installed manually or via a plugin manager, such as Vundle, Pathogen, or Vim-Plug.

Examples

```
" This is the Hello World program in Vim script.
echo "Hello, world!"

" This is a simple while loop in Vim script.
let i = 1
while i < 5
    echo "count is" i
    let i += 1
endwhile
unlet i
```

Availability

Whereas *vi* was originally available only on Unix operating systems, Vim has been ported to many operating systems including AmigaOS (the initial target platform), Atari MiNT, BeOS, DOS, Windows starting from Windows 95, OS/2, OS/390, MorphOS, OpenVMS, QNX, RISC OS, Linux, BSD, and Classic Mac OS.^[40] Also, Vim is shipped with every copy of Apple macOS.^[41]

Independent ports of Vim are available both for Android^{[42][43]} and iOS.^[44]

Neovim

Neovim^[45] is an extension of Vim that strives to improve the extensibility and maintainability of Vim.^[46] Neovim shares the same configuration syntax with Vim; as a result, the same config file can be used with both editors.^[47] As of version 0.1, released in December 2015, Neovim is compatible with almost all of Vim's features.^[48]



The Neovim project was started in 2014, with some Vim community members offering early support of the high-level refactoring effort to provide better scripting, plugins, and integration with modern GUIs.^{[49][50]} The project is open source and the full code is available on GitHub.^[51] Neovim had a successful fundraiser on March 23, 2014,^[52] supporting at least one full-time developer. Several frontends are under development, making use of Neovim's capabilities.^{[53][54]}



Screenshot of Neovim

The Neovim editor is available in Ubuntu's PPAs,^[55] and several other package managers,^[56] making it possible to install on a variety of Linux-based operating systems.

See also

- *Learning the vi and Vim Editors*, a tutorial book for *vi* and *vim*, published by O'Reilly Media.
- Editor war – the rivalry between users of the Emacs and *vi* (Vim) text editors
- List of text editors
- Comparison of text editors
- Vimperator
- Pentadactyl
- Vimium


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External links

- [Official website \(https://www.vim.org/\)](https://www.vim.org/) 
 - [TechTalk by Bram Moolenaar held on 25th Anniversary of first vim release \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayc_qpB-93o\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayc_qpB-93o) on [YouTube](#)
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