



Activity D5: Learning Vim

Re-submit Assignment

Due Jan 14 by 11:59pm **Points** 5 **Submitting** a file upload

In this activity, you will learn the Vim editor. Vim is a terminal editor, meaning you can run it from within your command line environment. This is particularly useful when managing a server, since the *only* thing you have on a server is a command line environment. Vim is actually a successor to vi, and adds a lot of improvements to it. This means you will see some people type "vi" when starting the editor instead of "vim". Both usually start vim. You will also be able to find lots of help on learning vim and vi online.

Aside

When it comes to terminal editors, there is a long-standing "war" between those who like vi and those who like emacs. I have personally been an emacs user for 35 years and use it primarily because it is what I learned first and I am so familiar with it. If you prefer to learn emacs instead of vi, you're welcome to do so and still get credit for this activity. Simply do the equivalent in emacs instead of vi. The main difference between the two editors is that emacs uses a single mode for entering commands and editing the file, whereas vi uses two separate modes for this, and emacs uses the control key a lot. If you install emacs on a server, install the emacs-nox package for a lightweight and fast installation.

There is also another command line editor, nano, that is installed by default. It is not very powerful and not used regularly by sysadmins. We're learning vim so you'll be familiar with the tool most people use.

Login

The first thing to do is to login to your Digital Ocean server. This should have vim/vi already installed.

Vim Basics

To learn the basics of vim, follow this tutorial: [Vi Text Editor!](https://ryanstutorials.net/linuxtutorial/vi.php) (<https://ryanstutorials.net/linuxtutorial/vi.php>). This includes:

- starting vi
- creating a file

- saving and exiting
- navigating a file
- deleting content
- undoing

Vim Search and Copy/Paste

To learn more about vim, see this guide: [Getting Started with Vim](https://scotch.io/tutorials/getting-started-with-vim-an-interactive-guide) [_ \(https://scotch.io/tutorials/getting-started-with-vim-an-interactive-guide\)](https://scotch.io/tutorials/getting-started-with-vim-an-interactive-guide). This includes:























- installing vim on your laptop (if you would like -- optional)
- searching
- copy/paste

More Advanced Vim

Search out more on vim online if you want to go further, but this should be enough for this class.

Submission

In your home directory, create a file called vim-opinions. Write a paragraph telling us what you like or don't like about vim. Be yourself -- any opinion is valid. Turn in two screenshots: (1) a screenshot of your terminal after using the "ls" command to show this file in your home directory, and (2) a screenshot of you editing the file in vim.

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