Vi Cheat Sheet ∞

CHEAT-SHEET   01 Nov 2015   Arr0way

A collection of Vi commands in a cheat sheet, handy reference document for learning / remembering Vi commands. I refer to Vim / Vi as the same thing in this document, but in most modern Linux distros vi is often a symlink to vim.

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It's worth learning Vi as it's installed on pretty much every Linux base system out there.

If you're learning Vi, you might want to check out Vim Adventures - an online adventure game that uses Vi commands.

Vim Resources

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- Vim Casts

Enjoy the cheat sheet :)

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Vi Insert mode & Command Mode

Vi has two basic modes, **insert mode** - used for entering text and **command mode**, used for entering commands. See the tip section below for switching between each mode.

Vi Insert Mode

Enter vi insert mode, insert mode is used for inserting text.

- Vi Copy and Paste
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  - Vi Search for Upper and Lowercase
- Advanced Vi commands
  - Vi View Options

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`i`	Enter insert mode from command mode.

⭐ Vi Command Mode - Vi Insert Mode

Vi has two modes, **insert mode** for inserting text and **command mode** a common mistake is attempting to edit in command mode. If you are unsure on what mode Vi is using double tap

escape (enters command mode) and then hit "i" if you wish to enter insert mode.

Vi Command Mode

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`Esc`	Hit escape to enter command mode.

Vi File Navigvation

Basic file navigation, how to move up, down, left and right.

⭐ **Arrow Keys**

Modern Vi / Vim editors will allow you to use the arrow keys, but it's worth learning the correct way to navigate vi without using the arrow keys in case you come across Vi command line or a shell that doesn't like arrow keys.

Move up, down, left and right in Vim

You'll need to be in command mode for these commands, navigation in vi uses **h j k l**

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
h	Move left - easy to remember h key is on the left
j	Move down - I remember it with j(d)own for down
k	Move up - k for up - I remember it with (k)up
l	Move right - l is on the right side of hjkl and moves you right

Vi Page Down

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
Ctrl+F	Vi move forward a page

Vi Half a Page Down

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
Ctrl+D	Vi move half a page down

Vi Page Up

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
Ctrl+B	Vi move up a page

Vi Half a Page Up

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
Ctrl+U	Vi move up half a page

More Advanced Ways of Entering Insert Mode

Vi Insert Text at Start of the Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
I	Insert text at the beginning of the line

Vi Insert Text at the end of the Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
A	Appends text at the end of the line

Vi Append text to the right of the Cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
a	Appends text to the right of the cursor

Begin a new line below

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
o	Begin a new line, below the current line

Vi replace line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
O	Removes line, and allows you to type a new line in it's place

Vi Replace

Change a Word in Vi

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

	Replaces a single word, place cursor on first letter and hit cw (Change Word)
`cw`	

Replace line, but not wrapped text

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`c$`	Replaces the current line but doesn't extend to change the rest of a wrapped sentence on the screen

Vi Replace Character

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`r`	Replaces only the character under the cursor

Vi Replace

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`R`	Replaces over the top of existing text, until the user hits return.

Vi Delete

Vi Delete Single Character After the Cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
x	Vi deletes single character after the cursor

Vi Delete Character before the Cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
x	Vi deletes character before the cursor.

Vi Delete Word

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
dw	Vi Delete Word, deleted the word under the cursor, from the curosr position onward

Vi Delete Line commands

Vi Delete Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
dd	Delete the current line in Vi

Vi Delete until end of Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
D	Deletes from cursor to end of line

Delete to end of screen

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
dL	Deletes from cursor to end of screen

Delete to end of file

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
dG	Deletes from cursor to end of file

Vi Delete From Cursor To Start of Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
d^	Deletes from cursor to start of line

Vi Copy and Paste

Vi Copy Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
yy	Copies current line into unnamed buffer

Vi Copy 3 Lines of Text

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
3yy	Copy 3 lines of text into unnamed buffer

Vi Copy Word

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
yw	Copy word under cursor into unnamed buffer

Vi Copy 3 Words

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
3yw	Copy 3 words into unnamed buffer

Vi Paste Commands

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
P	Copy contents of unamed buffer to right of cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
p	Copy contents of unamed buffer to left of cursor

Vi Search Commands

Vi Search forward

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
N	Vi search forward in file

Vi Search Back

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`SHIFT+N`	Vi search backward in file

Vi Search and Replace Commands

Vi Search and Replace First Instance

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:s/find-string/replace-string/`	Vi search and replace first instance of specified string

Vi Search and Replace on a Single Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:s/find-string/replace-string/g`	Vi search and replace all instances of specified string on current line

Vi Search and Replace Entire File

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

	Vi search and replace all instances of specified string for entire file
`:%s/find-string/replace-string/g`	

Vi Search for part of a Word

A fuzzy search allows you to find something that you only know part of, for example if you wanted to find all instances of lines starting with the word "Picard" you would use the following:

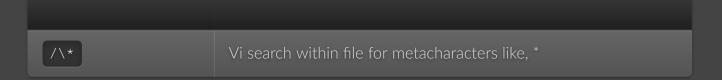| VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`/^Picard`	Vi search within file words starting with Picard

Vi Search for words ending with $string

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`/worf$`	Vi search within file for word engine with worf

Vi Search for Metacharacters

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`/\*`	Vi search within file for metacharacters like, *

Vi Exact Match Search Only

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`/star\.`	Vi exact search only, will return instances of "star only", not starfleet or star-trek

Vi Search for a range of Strings

Helpful for finding version numbers in text files.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`/v2.[1-9]`	Vi search for a range, this example would return all v2.1-9 instances within the file, e.g. v2.4 v2.7 etc

Vi Search for Upper and Lowercase

Search for upper and lowercase strings in Vi.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`/ [tT] [hH [eE]`	Vi search upper or lowercase strings, this example would return any instance of the word 'the'. e.g. The, THE, tHE, tHe

Advanced Vi commands

Vi View Options

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:set all`	Lists all Vi options

Vi Run Shell Commands

Run shell commands from Vi.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:! ls -l`	Run shell command from Vi, in this example ls -l is executed

Vi Joining Lines

Backspace doesn't always work...

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`SHIFT+J`	Position the cursor in either line you wish to join, and press `SHIFT+J`

Vi Split Windows

Useful for comparing files, to switch between windows press `SHIFT+W`

Vi Split Window Horizontally

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:split`	Split window Horizontally in Vi

Vi Split Window Virtically

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:vsplit`	Split window Virtically in Vi

Vi Close All Split Windows

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:only`	Closes all split windows and focuses on the primary window

Vi Save commands

How to Save in Vi

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:w`	Writes the file to disk

Vi Save and Exit

How to save and exit Vi, personally I use `:wq`

</tr> </tr> </tr>

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:wq`	Save and exit Vi
`:x`	Exit - Vi will prompt and ask if you wish to save
`SHIFT+ZZ`	Another way to Save and Exit Vi
`wq!`	Forces save on read only files, and exits

Misc Vi Commands

Vi Undo Command

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`U`	Press `SHIFT+U` to undo in Vi

Vi Undo All

Vi undo all since last write.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
`:+X+!`	Undo everything since last write

Vi Show File Name

`SHIFT+G` shows the file name, number of lines and current position.

Vi Multipliers

Almost every command in Vi can leverage multipliers, typically it's a case of prefixing the command with a numnber. Example: `10w` would move 10 words to the right.

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