

# vim Settings

!!! Do NOT use a locally installed IDE and copy files to and from Linux (except as required to submit to Canvas). !!!

One of the suggestions from some employers is that our grads are not able to effectively use command line Linux (unix) system tools. One of the goals of this course is for students to learn about and how to use several of the basics Linux terminal development tools. Being able to log in and complete your work on a remote system is a valuable skill and you will not always be able nor should you need to recreate the target remote system locally.

cs354 programs are small enough to complete via command line text editors and other test, develop, debug tools. Completing your work locally with IDEs that allow you to avoid learning to (test-edit-compile-run) from the command line runs counter to our learning objectives for you in this course and will fail to work at all for some parts of some programming assignment projects. Learn the tools from the start so you can use them throughout the semester.

To help **vim** help you submit code with consistent formatting, use the tips on this page.

## 1. Configure the settings for vim

1. download our .vimrc file to your CSL account
2. login to CSL network
3. Copy our sample vim remote connect settings file to your account:

```
cp /p/course/cs354-deppeler/public/html-s/.vimrc ~/.vimrc
```

4. Later, you can learn about and edit the recommended settings
2. Use **vimtutor** to learn the basic editing modes and some shortcuts.
3. Apply standard formatting from within vim using this keystroke sequence while in command mode:

```
gg=G
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2355834/how-can-i-autoformat-indent-c-code-in-vim/2355848> → <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2355834/how-can-i-autoformat-indent-c-code-in-vim/2355848>

The Deb's settings that we recommend you start with for your ~/.vimrc file.

```
syntax on
set number
set ruler
set tabstop=4
set shiftwidth=4
set softtabstop=4
set cursorline
```

```
set mouse=a  
  
:color morning
```

The above turns on syntax highlighting, adds line numbers, sets tabs at 4 characters each, displays a line under the line with the cursor, and sets a color theme with nice contrast (no really dark blues). The **mouse=a** setting will allow you to use your mouse until you learn the keyboard navigation sequences and shortcuts.

Notes, I have intentionally NOT included these common settings options:

- No *autoformat* because I do not like its format choices.
- No *autoexpand* because it affects how a **Makefile** is created.

Happy Command Line Coding !

-deb