

CPSC 1020 Lab 8 – Spring 23

DUE: Monday, March 13, 2023

SUBMISSION: Canvas.

Learning Vim using vimtutor

Introduction:

Many of you, including myself (Dr. Feaster), use a text editor such as Atom or VS Code when writing your programs. That is perfectly fine. However, there will be times when you need to make changes or create a document on some Linux server, such as one of the SoC servers. Many of you find yourselves making the change on your local computer then using some file transfer program or command to transfer the document to a server. This is a time-consuming process. If you know the basics of vim you could simply make these changes directly to the document on Linux. Many students, after learning vi/vim, realize how powerful it is and they choose to make it their primary editor when using Linux or MacOS.

Vim has a tutorial available. Each section of the tutorial is labeled. You will go through all sections of this tutorial. Some sections will prompt you to edit some text using some variation of vim motions. Do those. The autograder will be checking behind you. You will need to document what you did to make the changes in the answers.txt file I have provided you . These do not need to be belabored explanations. Just a quick one to two sentences explanation will suffice. If a section has no work for you to complete, simply enter a variation of “no effort needed”.

I have provided you with a copy of vimtutor version 1.7. You will edit this file and eventually submit it to gradescope. When you download and open the file you should see a screen that says WELCOME TO THE VIM TUTOR – Version 1.7. You are going to work through this tutorial. The documentation said this should take ~25-30 minutes. I hope you take your time exploring the commands you will use in this tutorial.

Competency screenshots

Submit screenshots of you

1. Highlighting some text.
2. Running a terminal command from inside vim. (! ls or something)
3. Using an alternate color scheme. (use help pages to find out how to swap.)

The link below is a video of someone going through this tutorial making his own comments and suggestions. Either while you are completing the tutorial or later, this video is a good one to watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8XtNXutVto> ← Dr F recommends

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6VJBeZEDZU> ←A speedrun of the tutorial

What to submit:

You will need to submit the following:

vimtutor.txt

answers.txt

competency screenshots mentioned above (submit as individual files. Make sure they show up on gradescope. I know a .png will show up. You can check by clicking on the “code” option. If they don’t show up, resubmit.)

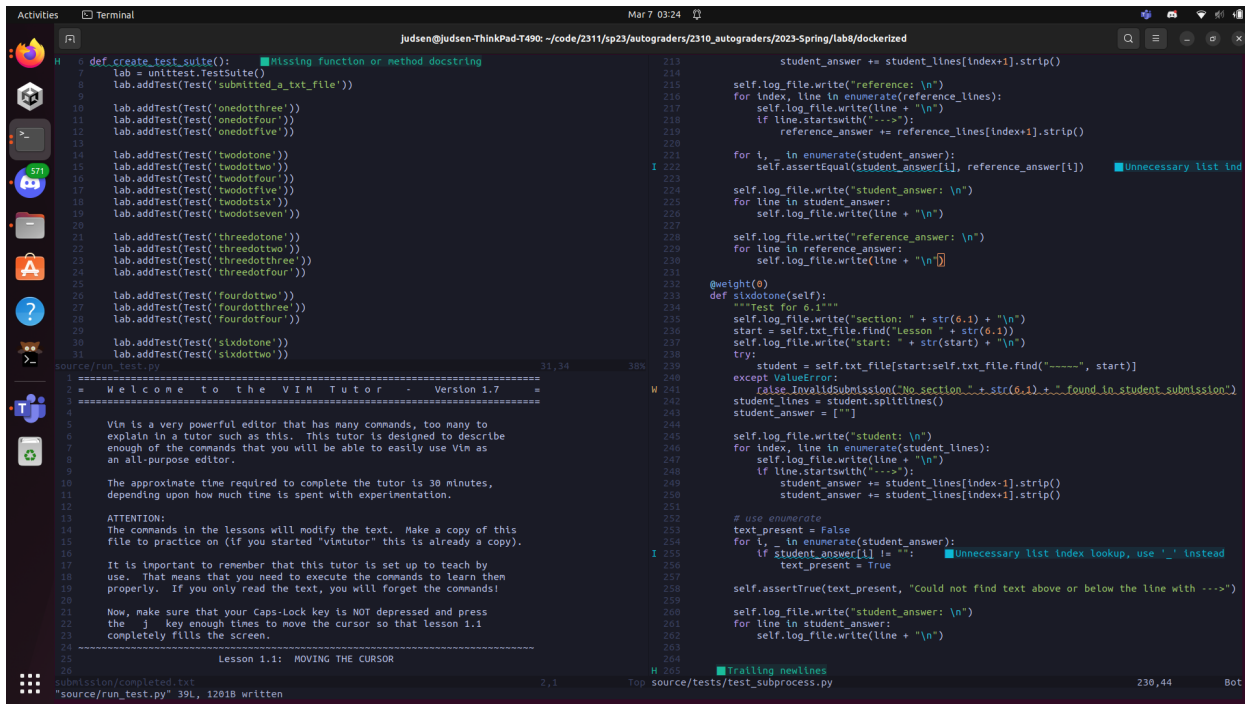
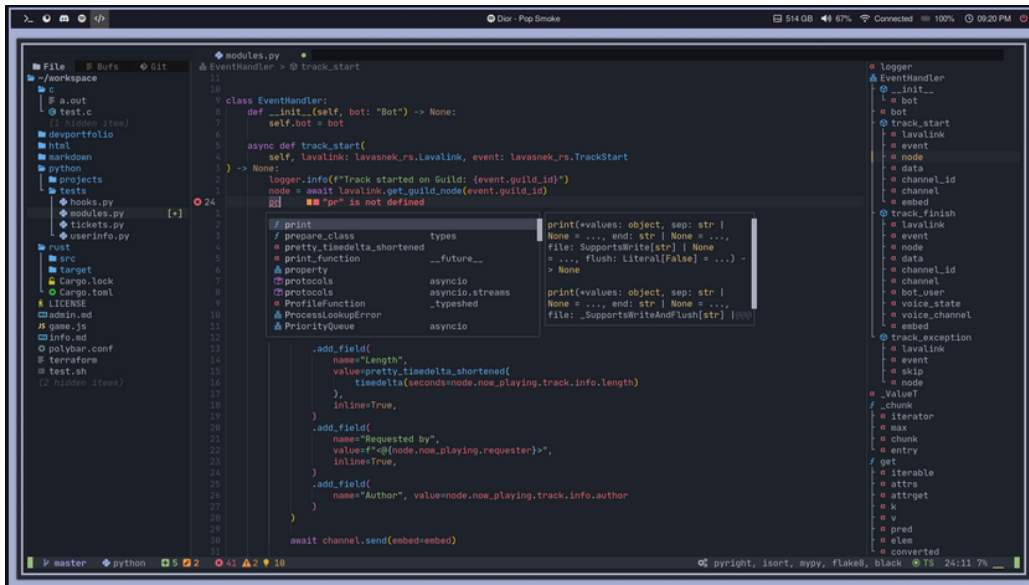
More content/The argument against VSCode:

I, Judsen btw, daily drive vim at school and at work. Many people think vim is not capable of competing with modern IDEs like VSCode. This is simply not the case. While the barrier of entry is high, but often overstated. Modern vim is just faster than bloated industry programs. VSCode is essentially a full web application, and vim is not. So if you ever experience sluggishness with VSCode that is basically why. What do most people like about VSCode? In my experience it’s usually simple ui stuff like tabs and preconfigured completion/highlighting. The problem is that it also comes pre configured for like 100 other things the user has no idea about. Add a couple plugins. Open a couple windows and all the sudden everything is lagging since you have the equivalent of 50 chrome tabs open.

VSCode is a great editor, but if you don’t mind messing around with a personal development configuration and value performance. Neovim is the way imo. You definitely don’t need to use vim or emacs to be a good developer, but it is kinda fun. If you are still using notepad... welp I’ll take a stronger stance on that.

Neovim:

I use a vim fork called Neovim. Neovim reworks a lot of the clunkyness of modern vim and makes it easier to script your own editor. Plugins are easier to install and custom scripts are easier to write. If you are interested in Neovim I would recommend using a pre configured version of it when starting to see if you like it. <https://github.com/AstroNvim/AstroNvim> is a great option. Seen below.



My Personal setup. I even have linter warnings and stuff like that.