

Lecture 6 | The basics of VIM

What is VIM?

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- The vi command-line text editor is included in all POSIX compliant operating system.
- Learning vi takes time, but it is crucial for system administration.
- Created by Bill Joy at the University of California at Berkeley in 1976.
- Vi has evolved into many different forms, including vim, which stands for "vi improved."
- The vi command is now linked to the vim command, so even when you issue the vi command, you're actually starting the vim editor.

The Portable Operating System Interface is a family of standards specified by the IEEE Computer Society for maintaining compatibility between operating systems

How to use vim

How to start and quit Vim?

- To start vim type vim. The text editor will start in normal mode.
- To quit vim press esc and type :qa!
 - `:` -> prefix for entering command line mode
 - `q` -> short for quit
 - `a` -> short for all buffers
 - `!` -> force
 - `:qa!` -> quit all now
- To set line numbers `:set number`

- There are 6 different modes for VIM

Vim modes:

- **Insert mode:** used for writing text
- **Normal mode:** used for manipulating text
- **Command mode:** used for entering vim commands
- **Visual mode:** used for navigation and manipulation of text selections
- **Select mode:** similar to visual mode
- **Ex-mode:** Similar to the command-line mode but optimized for batch processing.
 - When you start vim, you are in normal mode
 - From normal mode press i to enter insert mode.
 - The word --INSERT-- will appear on the bottom left corner of the terminal indicating that you are in insert mode.
 - To switch back to normal mode press esc.
 - In the lack of the esc key press ctrl + c

Saving and quitting vim

- :w - to save
- :wq - to save and quit

Editing a file with VIM

- :e new.txt -> will open new.txt and allow you to edit

Searching words in vim

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- Use / and the word you are looking for to search forward
 - /hello
- letter n will repeat the search for the next word
- ? To search backward
 - ?hello
- * will search for the next occurrence of the word under the cursor
- # will search backward for the previous occurrence of the word under the cursor

Useful to know

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- Read files
 - Shift o enters a new empty line
 - :r file name = insert the text of the file given into the file being edited
- Create a vim custom file
 - In your home directory create a file named .vimrc and add the commands to that file
 - <http://learnvimscriptthehardway.stevelosh.com/>
- Run an external command
 - :!+command
- To run a command and paste in a file
 - :r !+command