



# VIM: Not Your Grandpa's Editor

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# History

- vi - written by Bill Joy in 1976
  - Short for "visual", was originally a visual mode to ex.
- vim – written by Bram Moolenaar in 1991
  - clone of vi
  - Originally short for “**Vi IM**itation”
  - Renamed to “**Vi IM**proved” after functionality surpassed vi.
- Most commands available in vim, are also applicable to vi



# Features

- All commands accessible via keyboard
  - Minimal use of modifier keys
  - Extremely efficient for touch typists
- Highly customizable with plugins
  - Languages: vmscript, LUA, perl, python, racket, ruby, TCL
- Split windows, diff/merge support, auto-completion, spell checker, syntax highlighting
- Wide platform availability
  - Unix, Linux, AmigaOS, Atari, MiNT, BeOS, DOS, Windows 95+, OS/2, MorphOS, OpenVMS, QNX, RISC OS, MacOS Classic, OSX, Android, iOS.

# Installation

- Pre-Installed on most Unix/Linux Systems!
  - Downloadable at <http://www.vim.org>



# Modes

- Insert
  - Allows inserting of text (obviously)
  - When in insert mode, vim acts like a normal editor
  - Pressing *i*, *o*, or *a* in command mode will enter insert mode
- Command
  - This is the default mode when opening vim
  - Accepts commands (obviously) from the keyboard
  - Pressing ESC in any mode will drop to command mode
- Visual
  - Used for marking text (copy/paste)
  - Allows selecting of a block of text in a visual manner.
  - Pressing *v* in command mode will enter visual mode

# Inserting Commands

- *i* - insert
- *a* - append
- *o* - append new line

# Editing Commands

- *u* - undo
- *CTRL+r* - redo
- *s* - delete and sub character
- *J* - join next line with current
- *cc* - replace entire line
- *.* (*period*) - repeat last command



# Cursor Commands

- *Arrow keys* - move cursor
- *h* - move cursor left
- *l* - move cursor right
- *j* - move cursor up
- *k* - move cursor down
- *w* - jump forward to start of word
- *b* - jump backwards to start of word
- *0* (*zero*) - jump to beginning of line
- *\$* - jump to end of line
- *G* - go to last line
- *numG* - go to "*num*" line (ex: 50G) alias :50
- *CTRL+u* - page up
- *CTRL+d* - page down



# Copy & Paste Commands

- *yy* - copy line (yank line) (also *numyy* - copy *num* lines)
- *yw* - copy word (yank word)
- *y\$* - copy to end of line
- *p* - paste before cursor
- *P* - paste after cursor
- *dd* - cut line (also *numdd* - cut *num* lines)
- *dw* - cut word
- *d\$* - cut to end of line
- *x* - cut character

# Exiting Commands

- `:w [<filename>]` - save/write file
- `:q` - quit
- `:q!` - force quit
- Combinations of these can be used.
  - `:wq [<filename>]` - save/write file and quit

# Search and Replace Commands

- Supports regular expression matching and back-references
- Simple examples:
  - */pattern* - search for pattern
  - *:%s/old/new/g* - replace old with new globally



# `.vimrc`

- Location: `~/.vimrc`
- Most commands contained inside this file can also be called from within vim command mode
- Double quotes (") denotes comments

## **.vimrc (cont.)**

```
set nocompatible           " disable vi compatibility mode.
set backspace=indent,eol,start " enable backspace key to work as intended
set autoindent             " enable auto-indenting
set cindent                " C Style indenting
set smartindent            " Smart indenting
set expandtab               " tab = spaces
set tabstop=2              " tab = 2 spaces
set shiftwidth=2           " auto-indents 2 spaces
set history=50             " set command history to 50
set ruler                  " always show cursor position
set showcmd                " show incomplete commands
syntax on                  " enable syntax highlighting
set incsearch              " enable incremental search
```



## **.vimrc (cont.)**

```
set hlsearch                " highlight search results
set whichwrap+=<,>,[,]      " Make left/right arrows wrap properly
set laststatus=2           " Always show status line
set showmatch               " Show matching braces
set comments=sl:/*,mb:\  *,elx:*/ " automatic docblock building
set formatoptions+=r        " set format option (needed for above)
set textwidth=120           " make wide lines
colorscheme desert           " Use desert color scheme
set pastetoggle=<F2>         " map F2 key to toggle paste mode
map <F3> ggVGg?             " Super-secure encryption (rot13)

set statusline=%<%f%h%m%r\ %y%=%{&ff}\ %l,%c%V\ %P    " Status line
highlight StatusLineNC ctermfg=yellow ctermbg=green    " Non-current
                                                         " status line colors
highlight StatusLine ctermfg=white ctermbg=red          " Status line colors
```



# Useful Plugins

- Autoclose tags - <https://github.com/Townk/vim-autoclose>
- Fugitive (git integration) - <https://github.com/tpope/vim-fugitive>
- vDebug (debugger integration) - <https://github.com/joonty/vdebug>
- NERDtree (file tree browser) - <https://github.com/scrooloose/nerdtree>
- Pathogen (plugin loader) - <https://github.com/tpope/vim-pathogen>

# Thank You!

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