

Guided Practice: Optimize Your Text Editor to Properly and Easily Format YAML Files

Outcome

In this Guided Practice, you will create a vim configuration file that is optimized for YAML editing.

Resources Needed

- VCASTLE Pod configured for the class. For this Guided Practice, we use the CentOS 8 server to create and edit an `/etc/vimrc` file.
- Your user needs to be able to have sudo privileges.

Level of Difficulty

Moderate

Deliverables

Deliverables are marked in red font or with a red picture border around the screenshot. **Your username or studentID should be visible in all screenshots that you submit.**

General Considerations

You should be familiar with Linux scripting. YAML files require a specific format, and most text editors can be configured to accommodate the editing of these files.

Create and Edit /etc/vimrc

1. Type (you may have to enter your password):

```
sudo vim /etc/vimrc
```

2. Add the following lines (Lines 14 – 17) after the “set ruler” line. Remember that you will have to press `i` to switch to the insert mode, `<ESC>` to return to the command mode, and `:wq` from the command mode to save the file and exit. Enter the following text:

```
i
set number
set tabstop=2 softtabstop=0 expandtab shiftwidth=2 smarttab
<ESC>:wq
```

3. Adding these lines sets the tab to two and inserts spaces rather than a tab. If you prefer gedit or nano, the Kenlon (2019) and the Our Code World (n.d.) websites have helpful configuration hints.
4. Load the `deploy_website.yml` file to validate your changes. Type

```
vim deploy_website.yml
```

and enter your password if needed.

When complete, your output

```
1 ---
2 - hosts: all
3   tasks:
4     - name: Ensure website is present and updated
5       file:
6         path: /var/www/html
7         state: directory
8         owner: root
9         group: root
10        mode: 0655
11        recurse: yes
12        become: True
```

If you wish to see the file without the formatting changes, you may type `view/etc/vimrc` (the read only mode for vim).

References

Kenlon, S. (2019). *10 YAML tips for people who hate YAML*.
<https://www.redhat.com/sysadmin/yaml-tips>

Our Code World (n.d.) *How to enable syntax highlighting for YAML (YML) files in GNU Nano.*
<https://ourcodeworld.com/articles/read/796/how-to-enable-syntax-highlighting-for-yaml-yml-files-in-gnu-nano>