

Su-write

Tip 975 Printable Monobook Previous Next

created 2005 · complexity basic · author Bernard Pratz · version 6.0

Sometimes you modify a file, for example from the `/etc` directory, then when you try to save the file, you get a permission-denied error. This tip presents some suggestions for using `sudo` from with Vim, so you can successfully write the file with temporary privileges.

Of course, this tip has to be used with caution, as it gets you more power.

Contents

Suggestion 1

If you find you do not have permission to perform `:w`, use the following:

```
:w !sudo tee % > /dev/null
```

You can make a command so `:W` invokes `sudo`:

```
command W w !sudo tee % > /dev/null
```

Or, if you know about the problem beforehand:

```
sudoedit path_to_file
sudo -e path_to_file
```

Suggestion 2



The following function saves the current file to a temporary file, then copies the new file to replace the original. It preserves the modes of the original file, though it is being rewritten.

```
function Suedit()
  let fname=tempname()
  exe 'w' fname
  let owner=system('stat -c%U:%G '.expand("%"))
  let modes=system('stat -c%a '.expand("%"))
  exec '!sudo cp ' fname.' '.expand("%")
  exec '!sudo chmod '.modes.' ".expand("%")
  exec '!sudo chown '.owner.' ".expand("%")
endfunction
```

Warning There is no check for symlinks. A symlink would be removed and replaced by a file with the symlink's modes, which are `777`.

Suggestion 3

Here is a mapping to save to a `/tmp` file, then overwrite the working file.

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```
nnoremap <leader>es :w! /tmp/sudoSave \|| let $fileToSave=expand('%') \|| let $fi. SaveBackup=expand('%').'' \|| !sudo cp $fileToSave $fileToSaveBackup && sudo cp /tmp/sudoSave
```

Warning This command will reload the file; you will lose the modifications history (undo will not work, although it does keep a backup).

Note that a backup is made, even when `'nobackup'` is set.

Comments

Use script#729 which has had more testing or use script#2709 which is an improved version of the first plugin (since it is not developed any more).

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