

VI Editor Quick Reference Guide

rev 8.12.03

SAVING & EXITING

:w Writes the file to disk. Does not exit vi
:q Exits vi if the file has been saved.
:wq Write the file and quit
:q! Quit without saving
ZZ Write the file and quit.

CURSOR MOVEMENT

h LEFT one character
l RIGHT one character
j DOWN one character
k UP one character

w Move to the beginning of the NEXT WORD or punctuation
b Move BACKWARDS to the first character of word or punctuation
<CTRL>f Move forward one page
<CTRL>b Move backward one page
1G Go to first Line
G Go to the end of the file
\$ Move to the end of the line
0 Move to the beginning of the line (ZERO)
^ Move to the first non white-space character in the line.

SEARCHING

/ Search forward for a pattern
? Search backward for a pattern
n Repeat last search in the same direction

CREATING NEW TEXT

a Append text to the right of the cursor
A Append text to the end of the line
i Insert text at the current position
I Insert text at the beginning of the line
o Open a new line BELOW the current line (small o)
O Open a new line ABOVE the current line (Capital o)
D Delete from the cursor to the end of the line (Capital D)

DELETING TEXT

x Delete character under cursor
dw Delete a word
dd Delete a line

EDITING TEXT

cw Change a word
r Replace single character under cursor
yy Yank current line
p Put text from register BELOW the current line
P Put text from register ABOVE the current line
"ayy Yank text into register "a"
:g/pattern/s/pattern/replacement/g Globally search for a pattern when found replace pattern with replacement continuing across the line.
:r Read in file.

UNDO CHANGES and JOIN LINES

u Undo last changes
J Join the current line and following

SHELL INTERFACE

:sh Starts up a new shell from within VI. Must type **exit** to return to the VI session
:! Executes a shell command
:r! Executes a shell command and reads the output into the current file

EXTRA COMMANDS

:set showmode Shows what mode you are in
:set number Sets numbers to the data.
:ai Autoindent
:n Switches to the second open file
:r Reads contents of a file. (example) :r /etc/group reads the group file and places it in the open file
:e! Edits a new file. (example) {:e! denalihost} opens denalihost for editing.
"ap Puts the number of lines yanked into the new file.
vi file file2 Opens 2 files at the same time
10dd Deletes 10 lines of text.
#G Takes you to line # of the file
#"ayy Yanks # of lines and puts them into "a" buffer
#G "dp Goes to # line and puts the contents of "d" BELOW the # line
#G "dP Goes to # line and puts the contents of "d" ABOVE the # line
#G \$ Moves to the end of #G line
dd 1G P Deletes a line and copies it to the TOP of the file
dd G P Deletes a line and copies it to the BOTTOM of the file