inux Tutorial - Vi Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet is intended to be a quick reminder for the main concepts involved in using the command line program **Vim (or vi)** and assumes you already understand its usage. It does not cover every command in Vim, only the ones we consider to be useful for most people for the majority of their text editing.

Visit the Vi (vi.php) page in our tutorial for a more in depth discussion on their usage.

Main Linux Cheat Sheet page. (./cheatsheet.php)

Basic Usage

vim or vi
  Run vim and open the given filename.

:w
  Save file.

:x or SHIFT ZZ
  Save and exit.

:q
  Exit if no changes have been made.

:q!
  Exit and undo any changes made.

:set nu
  Display line numbers.

Movement

h
  Move left one character.

j
  Move down one character.

k
  Move up one character.

l
  Move right one character.

w
  Move forward one word.

b
  Move to the start of the word.

e
  Move to the end of the word.

(

Move back one sentence.

)

Move forward one sentence.

{

Move back one paragraph.

}

Move forward one paragraph.

^

Move to the beginning of the line.

$

Move to the end of the line.

<n>G

Move to the nth line.

G

Move to the last line.

gg

Move to the first line.

%

Move to the matching bracket.

Deleting

x

Delete a single character.

D

Delete the rest of the line.

dd

Delete the entire current line.

ndw

Delete the next n words.

ndd

Delete the next n lines.

:x,yd

Delete from line x through to line y.

Entering Insert mode

i

a

After the cursor.

I

Before the current line.

A

After the current line.

o

Insert a new line after the current line.

O

Insert a new line before the current line.

C

Ovewrite the whold current line.

ESC

Exit Insert mode.

Search and Replace

/pattern

Search for *pattern*.

n

Find the next occurrence of *pattern*.

:%s/*pattern*/*replace*/g

Replace every occurrence of *pattern* with *replace*..

Cut and Paste

p

Paste the clipboard contents.

yy

Yank (copy) a line.

yw

Yank a word.

y$

Yank to the end of the line.

Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.

inux Tutorial - Vi Cheat Sheet

- Socrates

Tutorial Sections

Home

(/)

Linux Tutorial

(/linuxtutorial/)

Bash Scripting Tutorial

(/bash-scripting-tutorial/)

Problem Solving

(/problem-solving-skills/)

Basic Design Tutorial

(/graphic-design-tutorial/)