Vi / Vim Basic



⁰¹ Why Choose a Text Editor?



- Writing code involves more than typing.
- We spend more time reading, editing, and navigating.
- Using a good editor can increase efficiency.

⁰² Learning a New Editor



- Steps to learning an editor:
 - 1. Start with a tutorial.
 - 2. Stick with it, even if slow at first.
 - 3. Look things up as you go.

⁰³ Timeline for Mastery



- 1-2 hours: Learn basics (open/edit files, save/quit).
- 20 hours: Match old editor speed.
- After 20 hours: Start to save time.

⁰⁴ Vim - The Editor



- Vim has a rich history and is popular for its speed and efficiency.
- Modal editing separates navigation and text insertion.

⁰⁵ Vim's Modal Editing



- Modes in Vim:
 - Normal: For moving around and editing.
 - Insert: For inserting text.
 - Visual: For selecting text.

⁰⁶ Command-Line Mode



- Use the command-line for actions like save/quit.
 - :wq to save and quit
 - :e to open a file

⁰⁷ Vim's Interface as a Programming Language



- Commands and movements can be combined for powerful editing.
- Keystrokes represent commands.

⁰⁸ Modal Editing



- Vim has multiple operating modes:
 - Normal: Move and edit
 - Insert: Insert text
 - Replace: Replace text
 - Visual: Select text
 - Command-line: Run commands
 - Press ESC to return to Normal mode
 - Switch between modes with various keys

⁰⁹ Basics - Inserting Text



- Press i in Normal mode to enter Insert mode
- Vim behaves like a typical text editor until you press ESC to return to Normal mode.

¹⁰ Command-line Mode



- Press: in Normal mode to enter Commandline mode.
- 1. :q Quit
- 2.:w Save
- 3. :e {filename} Open file for editing
- 4. :help {topic} Get help on a topic.

11 Vim's Interface as a Programming Language



- Movements are nouns (hjkl for movement, w/b for words).
- Editing commands are verbs (d to delete, c to change).
- Commands can be combined for efficient editing.

¹² Movement Commands



- Basic: hjkl for left, down, up, right
- Words: w (next), b (beginning), e (end)
- Lines: 0 (start), \$, ^
- Scrolling: Ctrl-u (up), Ctrl-d (down)
- File: gg (top), G (end)

¹³ Selection Commands



Visual modes:

• v: Visual mode

• V: Visual Line

Ctrl-v: Visual Block

14 Editing Commands



- i: Insert mode
- o: Insert line below, O: Insert line above
- d{motion}: Delete motion
- c{motion}: Change motion
- x: Delete character
- u: Undo, Ctrl-r: Redo

¹⁵ Counts



- Counts: e.g. 3w to move 3 words forward
 - 3w move 3 words forward
 - 5j move 5 lines down
 - 7dw delete 7 words

¹⁶ Modifiers



- Modifiers: i for inner, a for around (e.g., ci(to change inside parentheses)
 - ci(: change the contents inside the current pair of parentheses
 - ci[: change the contents inside the current pair of square brackets
 - da': delete a single-quoted string, including the surrounding single quotes

¹⁷ Search and Replace



- Use the :s (substitute) command for search and replace
 - %s/foo/bar/g
 - Replace 'foo' with 'bar' in the entire file.

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3 modes of vi

command mode

you can navigate the file and use the commands shown on this page

insert mode

you can type into the file, and with vim you can still move around the file

last-line mode

you can issue complicated commands on the last line of the editor

editing

i	insert
0	open a new line (below)
0	open a new line (above)
a	append
Α	append at end of line
u	undo
	repeat last command

cutting and pasting

УУ	yank (copy)
5уу	yank 5 lines
dd	delete current line
6dd	delete six lines
p	paste (below current line)
	(lower-case 'p')
P	paste (above current line)
nn 2024	(capital 'P')

deleting

×	delete current character
10x	delete 10 characters
dd	delete current line
6dd	delete six lines
d0	delete to beginning of line
d\$	delete to end of line

navigation - up, down

[Up]	move up one line
5[Up]	move up 5 lines
[Down]	move down 1 line
6[Down]	move down 6 lines
1G	go to line 1
15G	go to line 15
G	go to last line
H	go to top of screen (high)
M	go to middle of screen
L	go to bottom of screen (low)

navigation - left, right

W	go to next word
7w	move over 7 words
b	back one word
0	go to beginning of line
\$	go to end of line

searching

/foo	search forward for "foo"
?foo	search backwards for "foo"
n	repeat last search

saving, exiting

:w	write contents to disk
:wq	write contents and quit
ZZ	write contents and quit
:q	quit
:q!	quit and don't save changes

miscellaneous

:!ls	run "Is" command from editor
:r foo	read file foo into this file
:10,20d	delete lines 10-20

more miscellaneous

:1,\$s/foo/bar/g

from the first line to the last line change all ocurrences of "foo" to "bar"

first[Ctrl][p]

vi auto-complete; turns "first" into "firstName", assuming you have a variable in the file named firstName

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