

Chapter 2

Table 2-4 vim Essential Commands

vim Command	Explanation
Esc	Switches from input mode to command mode. Press this key before typing any command.
i, a	Switches from command mode to input mode at (i) or after (a) the current cursor position.
o	Opens a new line below the current cursor position and goes to input mode.
:wq	Writes the current file and quits.
:q!	Quits the file without applying any changes. The ! forces the command to do its work. Add the ! only if you really know what you are doing.
:w filename	Writes the current file with a new filename.
dd	Deletes the current line and places the contents of the deleted line into memory.
yy	Copies the current line.
p	Pastes the contents that have been cut or copied into memory.
v	Enters visual mode, which allows you to select a block of text using the arrow keys. Use d to cut the selection or y to copy it.
u	Undoes the last command. Repeat as often as necessary.
Ctrl-r	Redoes the last undo. (Cannot be repeated more than once.)
gg	Goes to the first line in the document.
G	Goes to the last line in the document.
/text	Searches for <i>text</i> from the current cursor position forward.
?text	Searches for <i>text</i> from the current cursor position backward.
^	Goes to the first position in the current line.
\$	Goes to the last position in the current line.
!!s	Adds the output of ls (or any other command) in the current file.
:%s/old/new/g	Replaces all occurrences of <i>old</i> with <i>new</i> .

Man pages are categorized in different sections. The most relevant sections for system administrators are as follows:

- **1:** Executable programs or shell commands
- **5:** File formats and conventions
- **8:** System administration commands