

100 Vim commands every programmer should know

(<http://www.catswhocode.com/blog/vim-commands-every-programmer-should-know>)

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Since the 70's, Vi is one of the programmer's best friend. Nevermind you're new to Vi or not, here's a big list of 100 useful commands, organized by topic, which will make your coder life better.

Basics

:e filename	Open <i>filename</i> for edition
:w	Save file
:q	Exit Vim
:w!	Exit Vim without saving

Search

/word	Search <i>word</i> from top to bottom
?word	Search <i>word</i> from bottom to top
/jo[ha]n	Search <i>john</i> or <i>joan</i>
^< the	Search the, theatre or <i>then</i>
/the\>	Search <i>the</i> or <i>breathe</i>
^< the\>	Search <i>the</i>
^< !.\>	Search all words of 4 letters
^/	Search <i>fred</i> but not <i>alfred</i> or <i>frederick</i>
/fred\joe	Search <i>fred</i> or <i>joe</i>
^<\d\d\d\d\>	Search exactly 4 digits
^\\n\{3}	Find 3 empty lines
:bufdo /searchstr/	Search in all open files

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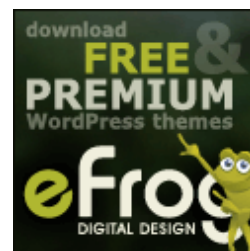
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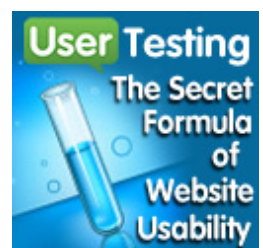
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Replace

:%s/old/new/g	Replace all occurrences of <i>old</i> by <i>new</i> in file
:%s/old/new/gw	Replace all occurrences with confirmation
:2,35s/old/new/g	Replace all occurrences between lines 2 and 35
:5,\$s/old/new/g	Replace all occurrences from line 5 to EOF
:%s/^/hello/g	Replace the beginning of each line by <i>hello</i>
:%s/\$/Harry/g	Replace the end of each line by <i>Harry</i>
:%s/onward/forward/gi	Replace <i>onward</i> by <i>forward</i> , case insensitive
:%s/ *\$/g	Delete all white spaces
:g/string/d	Delete all lines containing <i>string</i>
:v/string/d	Delete all lines containing which didn't contain <i>string</i>
:s/Bill/Steve/	Replace the first occurrence of <i>Bill</i> by <i>Steve</i> in current line
:s/Bill/Steve/g	Replace <i>Bill</i> by <i>Steve</i> in current line
:%s/Bill/Steve/g	Replace <i>Bill</i> by <i>Steve</i> in all the file
:%s/\r//g	Delete DOS carriage returns (^M)
:%s/\r\r//g	Transform DOS carriage returns in returns
:%s#<[^>]\+>##g	Delete HTML tags but keeps text
:%s/^(.*)\n1\$/\1/	Delete lines which appears twice
Ctrl+a	Increment number under the cursor
Ctrl+x	Decrement number under cursor
ggVGg?	Change text to Rot13

Case

Vu	Lowercase line
VU	Uppercase line
g~~	Invert case
vEU	Switch word to uppercase
vE~	Modify word case
ggguG	Set all text to lowercase
:set	Ignore case in searches
ignorecase	
:set	Ignore case in searches excepted if an uppercase letter is used
:%s/\	Sets first letter of each word to uppercase
<./u&/g	
:%s/\	Sets first letter of each word to lowercase
<./l&/g	
:%s/.*\u&	Sets first letter of each line to uppercase
:%s/.*\l&	Sets first letter of each line to lowercase

Read/Write files

:1,10 w outfile	Saves lines 1 to 10 in <i>outfile</i>
:1,10 w >> outfile	Appends lines 1 to 10 to <i>outfile</i>
:r infile	Insert the content of <i>infile</i>
:23r infile	Insert the content of <i>infile</i> under line 23



Search



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File explorer

:e .	Open integrated file explorer
:Sex	Split window and open integrated file explorer
:browse e	Graphical file explorer
:ls	List buffers
:cd ..	Move to parent directory
:args	List files
:args *.php	Open file list
:grep expression *.php	Returns a list of .php files contening <i>expression</i>
gf	Open file name under cursor

Interact with Unix

!:pwd	Execute the <i>pwd</i> unix command, then returns to Vi
!!pwd	Execute the <i>pwd</i> unix command and insert output in file
:sh	Temporary returns to Unix
\$exit	Retourns to Vi

Alignment

:%!fmt	Align all lines
!}fmt	Align all lines at the current position
5!!fmt	Align the next 5 lines

Tabs

:tabnew	Creates a new tab
gt	Show next tab
:tabfirst	Show first tab
:tablast	Show last tab
:tabm n(position)	Rearrange tabs
:tabdo %s/foo/bar/g	Execute a command in all tabs
:tab ball	Puts all open files in tabs

Window splitting

:e filename	Edit <i>filename</i> in current window
:split filename	Split the window and open <i>filename</i>
ctrl-w up arrow	Puts cursor in top window
ctrl-w ctrl-w	Puts cursor in next window
ctrl-w _	Maximise current window
ctrl-w =	Gives the same size to all windows
10 ctrl-w +	Add 10 lines to current window
:vsplit file	Split window vertically
:sview file	Same as :split in readonly mode
:hide	Close current window
:nly	Close all windows, excepted current
:b 2	Open #2 in this window

Auto-completion

Ctrl+n Ctrl+p (in insert mode)	Complete word
Ctrl+x Ctrl+l	Complete line
:set dictionary=dict	Define <i>dict</i> as a dictionary

Marks

mk	Marks current position as <i>k</i>
~k	Moves cursor to mark <i>k</i>
d™k	Delete all until mark <i>k</i>

Abbreviations

:ab mail	Define <i>mail</i> as abbreviation of
mail@provider.org	<i>mail@provider.org</i>

Text indent

:set autoindent	Turn on auto-indent
:set smartindent	Turn on intelligent auto-indent
:set shiftwidth=4	Defines 4 spaces as indent size
ctrl-t, ctrl-d	Indent/un-indent in insert mode
>>	Indent
<<	Un-indent

Syntax highlighting

:syntax on	Turn on syntax highlighting
:syntax off	Turn off syntax highlighting
:set syntax=perl	Force syntax highlighting

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