

Vim and the Vim Tutorial

In this lab session, you will learn the basics of Vim – how to edit a file using the Vim editor. The lecturer will have already provided a demonstration of the basics of Vim during your second lecture this week.

Note1:

The editor name is called VI (which stands for Visual Interface). Modern versions of VI are called VIM (VI iMproved).

Note2:

Vim is not like gedit or notepad++, where you are always in INSERT mode. Vim has a completely different way of working/editing a file to what you are used to.

VI has 3 modes, **EDIT mode**, **INSERT mode** and **COMMAND mode**.

When you start the editor, you are by default placed in EDIT mode.

you may enter INSERT mode (using i) to add/alter text.

you may exit INSERT mode and go back to EDIT mode by pressing the ESC key.

You enter COMMAND mode (from EDIT mode only) by typing ':' (colon without the quote) and entering a command. After executing the command, by pressing enter, you are immediately brought back to EDIT mode.

Edit a file	VI
Enter INSERT mode	i
Exit INSERT mode	ESC
Quit without saving	:q
Save file	:w
Save and quit	:wq
Undo last operation	u
Search for text	/ (note: ? searches backwards)
Repeat search	n
Repeat last operation	.
Goto start file	1G
Goto line xx	xxG
Append at end of line	A
Add line after this line	O
Delete character	x (note: 6x deletes 6 characters)
Delete line	dd (note: 5dd deletes 5 lines)
Yank a line	yy (note: 4yy yanks 4 lines)
Paste something	P (i.e. paste last thing yanked or deleted)
Replace a character	r
Change current word	cw

Simple Exercises

1. Complete lesson one of the Vim tutorial. The Vim tutorial may be accessed by running *vimtutor* on the Linux command terminal (Google Cloud Shell).

After completing lesson one of *vimtutor*, perform the following exercises below.

2. Create new file called *test1.txt*
 - a. Add a name and address to the file, one per line
 - b. Save and exit the file
 - c. Display the contents of the file to ensure it contains what you expect (Use the **cat** command)
 - d. It should look something like

```
Joe Bloggs
23 nice house road
nice area
Dublin 234
```

3. Edit the same file
 - a. Add new line at start and end of file
The line should be *****
 - b. Save and exit
 - c. Display the contents of the file, it should look like

```
*****
Joe Bloggs
23 nice house road
nice area
Dublin 234
*****
```

4. Edit the same file
 - a. Replace the words **nice house** with **really nice house**
 - b. Add new line after **nice Area** which reads **nice County**
 - c. Save and exit the file
 - d. Display the contents of the file to verify the content is correct.

5. Edit the same file
 - a. Use **/** to search for the word **nice**

6. Create a script to install the *man* command.
 - a. Create and edit a new file using Vim called *install_man.sh*
 - b. Copy the commands to install the *man* command into this file (refer back to the lab activity from week two, which details the commands).
 - c. Save the file.

- d. Grant the owner (you) execute permission to the file *install_man.sh*.
Hint: Use the chmod command.
 - e. Finally, run the script to install the *man* command.
Hint: ./install_man.sh
 - f. Verify the *man* command installed successfully (by running it).
7. Now complete lessons two in *vimtutor*.
8. Experiment with all the commands on the previous table to ensure you can use them