

A brief introduction to Vi/ViM

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Vi: The text editor

I use

Getting started

- To start

<code>vi</code>	start vi
<code>vi file</code>	open file

- To close

<code>:q</code>	quit
<code>:q!</code>	quit without save
<code>:x</code>	save and exit

- More on open a file

<code>vi +n file</code>	start at line n of file
<code>vi + file</code>	start at last line of file
<code>vi +/pattern file</code>	start at pattern in file
<code>vi -r file</code>	recover a file

Two modes of vi

- Insert mode
 - To insert text
- Command mode
 - All file manipulations except insert
 - * moving around the file
 - * search/replace
 - * yank/paste
 - * delete
 - * ...

Insert mode

- To enter

a	after the cursor
A	after last character on the line
i	before the cursor
I	before first character on the line
o	open line below current line
O	open line above current line
s	remove the letter and enter insert mode
R	insert mode with overwrite

- To exit

ESC

Moving around in the file

In the command mode -

0,^	Beginning of line
\$	End of line
(Beginning of sentence
)	End of sentence
{	Beginning of paragraph
}	End of paragraph
^f	page forward
^b	page backward
h	one character right
j	one line down
k	one line up
l	one character left

Moving around (contd.)

<code>:n</code>	go to line n
<code>%</code>	completion of <code>{}</code> or <code>()</code> ;
<code>w</code>	next word
<code>b</code>	previous word
<code>e</code>	end of the current word
<code>fa</code>	forward to the first occurrence of a
<code>Fa</code>	back to the first occurrence of a
<code>nw</code>	to n th word forward
<code>nb</code>	to n th word back
<code>G</code>	go to end of file

Yank/paste change and delete

y	begin yank
c	begin change
d	begin delete
p	paste
yy	yank current line
dd	delete current line
cw	change word
ndw	change n words
J	join next line
x	delete current letter
u	undo
.	repeat

Search and replace

/pattern	search forward for pattern
?pattern	search backward for pattern
n	repeat search
N	repeat search in the reverse direction
:s/old/new	replace first old by new in the current line
:%s/old/new	replace first old by new in the whole file
:%s/old/new/g	replace all old by new in the whole file
~	change case
r	replace one character

Markers and Buffers

- 36 [a-z,0-9] text markers and buffers

ma	set marker a
`a	go to the marker a
'a	go to the beginning of line with marker a
: 'a, 'b co 'c	from a to b copy to c
: 'a, 'b mo 'c	from a to b move to c
: 'a, 'b s/old/new/g	in a to b, replace all old by new
"ay}	yank up to end of paragraph in buffer a
"A12d	delete 12 lines and append to buffer a
"ap	paste contents of buffer a

Multiple files and window

- vi can open many files but can have only one unsaved file

<code>vi file1 file2 file3</code>	open files file1 file2 file3
<code>:n</code>	edit next file
<code>^^</code>	edit previous file

- vim offers much more options

<code>vi file1 file2 file3</code>	open files file1 file2 file3
<code>:n</code>	edit next file
<code>:N</code>	edit previous file
<code>:e file</code>	edit file
<code>:sp file</code>	split window and open file
<code>:vsp file</code>	vertical split window and open file
<code>^wn</code>	split window
<code>^wv</code>	vertical split window
<code>^w^w</code>	toggle between open windows

Misc. commands

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:w          write current file (save)
:w file1    write as file1
:wq         write and quit
:'a,'b w file1  from marker a to b write as file1
:r file1     read file1 below current line (insert file)
!cmd        execute shell command cmd
^p          Previous word completion
^n          Next word completion
^v          start visual mode
```

Customization

- syntax highlighting
- search highlighting
- set tab length
- replace tab by space
- set all
- define macros and shortcut

References

- A detailed reference guide

`http://www.vmunix.com/~gabor/vi.html`

- Detailed description of vi macros

`http://soma.npa.uiuc.edu/docs/vi.macros`

- A pointer to pointers on vi

`http://www.thomer.com/vi/vi.html`

Thank you!