

**VIM Editor QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE
FOR THE BEGINNING USER**

The VIM editor is a screen-based editor used by many Linux and UNIX users. It has two modes of operation: Insertion mode and Command mode. The editor begins in command mode which provides cursor movement, text deletion and pasting. Insertion mode allows inserting text into the file. To change the editor from insertion mode back to command mode, press the [ESC] key.

vim filename	Create a new file called filename
vim -r filename	recover filename that was being edited when system crashed. (Delete the .swp file afterwards)
:x<Return>	Exit, saving changes
:q<Return>	Exit as long as there have been no changes
ZZ	Exit and save changes if any have been made
:q!<Return>	Exit and ignore any changes

i	Insert before cursor
I	Insert at beginning of line
a	Append after cursor
A	Append at end of line
o	Open a new line after current line
O	Open a new line before current line
r	Replace one character
R	Replace many characters

:%s/pattern/string/flags	Replace pattern with string according to flags.
g	Flag - Replace all occurrences of pattern
c	Flag - Confirm replacement

/string	Search forward for string
?string	Search back for string
n	Search for next instance of string
N	Search for previous instance of string

h	Move left
j	Move down
k	Move up
l	Move right
w	Move forward one word
W	Move to next word, skipping over punctuation
b	Move to beginning of word
B	Move to beginning of word, skip over punctuation
{	Move a paragraph back
}	Move a paragraph forward
0	Move to the beginning of the line
\$	Move to the end of the line
1G	Move to the first line of the file
G	Move to the last line of the file
nG	Move to nth line of the file
:n	Move to nth line of the file
fc	Move forward to the letter "c" on current line
Fd	Move backwards to the letter "d" on current line
H	Move to top of screen
M	Move to middle of screen
L	Move to bottom of screen

Yank Text(Command Mode)

yy	Yank the current line and place into buffer
:y	Yank the current line and place into buffer
5yy	Yank 5 lines and place into buffer

Put text (After yanking)

p	Put contents of buffer after current line
P	Put contents of buffer before current line

File Access (Command Mode)

:w filename	Write to file
:r filename	Read file and place into current file at current location
:e filename1	Edit different file filename1

Delete Text (Command Mode)

x	Delete character to the right of cursor
X	Delete character to the left of cursor
D	Delete to the end of the line
dd	Delete current line
:d	Delete current line

Change Text (Insert Mode)

C	Change text from current position to the end of the line
cc	Change text of the whole line

String Search

/string	Search forward for string
?string	Search back for string
n	Search for next instance of string
N	Search for previous instance of string

VIM Settings

VIM can be customized with numerous settings that can be set on the fly or in a startup file.

:set	To view current settings
:set all	To view all the possible settings
:set textwidth=65	Set the maximum line width

Getting Help

:help	General Help
:help textwidth	Help on the topic "textwidth"

Regular Expressions

A regular expression is a description of a set of characters built from text mixed with special characters. They are used for searching and are case sensitive.

.	Matches any single character except newline
*	Zero or more occurrences of any character
[]	Any single character specified in the set
[^]	Any single character not specified in the set
^	Anchor - beginning of the line

Regular Expression Examples

/.oing/	Will match <i>boing</i> and <i>going</i>
/sto*p/	Matches <i>stp</i> , <i>stop</i> , <i>stoop</i> etc...
/b[ao]rn/	Matches <i>barn</i> , <i>born</i> , <i>burn</i>
/[0-9]/	Matches if there are numbers in the line
/^TEST\$/	Matches if line only contains <i>TEST</i>
/^[a-zA-Z]/	Matches if line starts with any letter
/2134\$/	Matches if the line ends with <i>2134</i>

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