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vi Tutorial

A universal, UNIX, ASCII Editor

Vi(sual) editor

Table of Contents

The first section explains why we are studying vi.

The second section summarizes the key definitions and vi commands.

The third section reviews a few basic UNIX commands.

The fourth section is an example of using vi commands.

The fifth section provides an expanded table of powerful vi commands. There are references to more help for vi commands.

Vi(sual) editor

PREFACE

Thank you for visiting www.EricLaine.com.

The primary purpose of this document is to serve as a memory aid for the author. Thus, the author is also the target audience. (In other words, the quality of the composition is 100% sufficient for me to understand what I wrote.)

The secondary purpose is to share this tutorial with the public. I appreciate the possibility that the general public may have some difficulty understanding the my personal abbreviations and my intuitive logic.

INTRODUCTION

The goal of this tutorial is to provide a convenient study guide for learning to use vi.

Vi (short for visual) was developed at Berkeley long before X-Windows, Motif, or Windows.

Nevertheless, vi is the most common, full-screen, ASCII editor in the UNIX world.

It is said that every UNIX operating system includes vi.

This is of great practical importance.

You can view and edit any UNIX file on any UNIX computer.

Improve your productivity dramatically by investing one our now.

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Why?

It is said that large, complicated reservoir simulations require the stability of a UNIX operating system. A common way to do this is to access a UNIX computer from a Windows computer.

A UNIX-based ASCII editor can improve productivity (by saving the time needed to transfer huge files back-and-forth between UNIX and Windows.)

Many UNIX-based ASCII editors are available. Most are easier to learn and easier to use than vi. (You should now be asking “Why are we about to learn vi?”)

It is said that every UNIX computer includes vi. This is a productivity issue. You will be able to view and edit files on any UNIX computer. All you need to do is invest as little as one hour learning four definitions and as few as 14 vi commands. (The short list is on the next slide.)

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Vi(sual) editor

4 definitions

<cr>	Type a carriage return (by pressing the Enter key.)
vi	Run the visual editor.
^	Hold the control (or Ctrl) key down while pressing another key.
Esc	Press the escape (or Esc) key.

14 commands

OPEN FILE	**vi** filename	View (or edit) the file named "filename."
CLOSE FILE	**:q!<cr>**	**Quit without saving** any changes.
	:w	**Write (save)** the changes and continue editing
MOVE CURSOR	**^f**	**Forward scroll** (down the page) one window.
	^b	**Backward scroll** (up the page) one window.
	Arrow keys	**Go one** character left or right, or one line up or down.
STOP EDITING	**esc**	**Escape (stop)** inserting (appending, overwriting) text.
EDIT	**i**	**Insert** text before the cursor. (Lower-case i.)
	R	**Replace** several characters (starting with the cursor character) until you press the Esc key. ("R" does not appear in the text.)
DELETE	**x**	**Delete** the **character** at the cursor.
	dd	**Delete** the current **line**.
COPY	**yy**	**Yank (copy)** the current line (without deleting.)
PASTE	**p**	**Paste** the most recent deletion (or yank) after the current line.
UNDO	**u**	Undo the most recent edit command. This is a toggle.

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Vi(sual) editor

A quick review of UNIX commands.

2. Open a terminal window.

Get into the correct directory.

4. List all files in the directory. Type ls <cr>.

```
rel1200@blowout:/g2/rel1200% ls
CASE01.ERR        Mail/              ecltmp.072358*   mail/
CASE01.LOG        VIP/               ecltmp.143628*   vi-help.txt
DeadLetters/      blackoil/          fmfilesvisited
GRTApplication    comp/              fminit/
LOG.RF            core               fminit.txt
rel1200@blowout:/g2/rel1200% cd comp
rel1200@blowout:/g2/rel1200/comp% ls
case01/  case04/  case07/  case10/  case13/  case16/  case19/
case02/  case05/  case08/  case11/  case14/  case17/  case20/
case03/  case06/  case09/  case12/  case15/  case18/  case21/
rel1200@blowout:/g2/rel1200/comp% cd case01
```

5. Change the directory. Type cd comp <cr>.

6. List the directory. Type ls <cr>.

7. Change the directory. Type cd comp <cr>.

Review UNIX commands (2of 2)

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1. List the directory.

2. Find CASE01.INDEX.RSM.

```
rel1200@blowout:/g2/rel1200/comp/case01% ls
CASE01.DATA*          CASE01.S0001          CASE01.X0000          ecltmp.071545*
CASE01.DBG            CASE01.S0002          CASE01.X0001          ecltmp.140836*
CASE01.DWS            CASE01.S0003          CASE01.X0002          ecltmp.140942*
CASE01.GRID           CASE01.SMSPEC         CASE01.X0003          newtemp
CASE01.INDEX.RSM      CASE01.UN6*           CASE01B.DATA*         output/
CASE01.PRT            CASE01.V0000          CASE01B.UN6*          practice
CASE01.PWS            CASE01.V0001          GRAF.DBG              temp
CASE01.RSM            CASE01.VECTOR.RSM     backup/
rel1200@blowout:/g2/rel1200/comp/case01% cp CASE01.INDEX.RSM practice
rel1200@blowout:/g2/rel1200/comp/case01% vi practice
```

3. Make a practice copy.
   Type cp CASE01.INDEX.RSM practice <cr>.

4. Open practice with vi.
   Type vi practice <cr>.

Vi(sual) editor

WISDOM

Good News

All UNIX computers come with vi.

If you can use vi, you can always view (and edit) UNIX files.

This tutorial contains enough vi commands to get your started.

Bad news

There are many UNIX editors that are easier to use.

Your editor is only on some UNIX computers (unless you install it.)

Vi(sual) editor

CAUTION

Quit vi without saving changes.

1. Press the Esc key (to quit changing text.)
2. Type :q!
3. Press the Enter key.

1. vi opened the file named CASE01.INDEX.RSM at line 1.

```
1 INDEX OF DATA VECTORS IN WORKSPACE
0-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
      MNEMONIC  ORIGIN    UNITS     WELL       AQUIFER          NUMBER
                                    OR GROUP   CELL LGR         OF
                                               OR REGION        VALUES
0-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
   1  TIME      CASE01    DAYS                                    123
   2  YEARS     CASE01    YEARS                                   123
   3  FOPR      CASE01    STB/DAY                                 123
   4  WOPR      CASE01    STB/DAY   I                             123
   5  WOPR      CASE01    STB/DAY   P                             123
   6  FOPT      CASE01    STB                                     123
   7  WOPT      CASE01    STB       I                             123
   8  WOPT      CASE01    STB       P                             123
   9  FWPR      CASE01    STB/DAY                                 123
  10  WWPR      CASE01    STB/DAY   I                             123
  11  WWPR      CASE01    STB/DAY   P                             123
  12  FWPT      CASE01    STB                                     123
  13  WWPT      CASE01    STB       I                             123
  14  WWPT      CASE01    STB       P                             123
  15  FWIR      CASE01    STB/DAY                                 123
  16  WWIR      CASE01    STB/DAY   I                             123
  17  WWIR      CASE01    STB/DAY   P                             123
  18  FWIT      CASE01    STB                                     123
  19  WWIT      CASE01    STB       I                             123
  20  WWIT      CASE01    STB       P                             123
  21  FGPR      CASE01    MSCF/DAY                                123
  22  WGPR      CASE01    MSCF/DAY  I                             123
  23  WGPR      CASE01    MSCF/DAY  P                             123
  24  FGPT      CASE01    MSCF                                    123
  25  WGPT      CASE01    MSCF      I                             123
  26  WGPT      CASE01    MSCF      P                             123
  27  FGIR      CASE01    MSCF/DAY                                123
  28  WGIR      CASE01    MSCF/DAY  I                             123
  29  WGIR      CASE01    MSCF/DAY  P                             123
  30  FGIT      CASE01    MSCF                                    123
  31  WGIT      CASE01    MSCF      I                             123
  32  WGIT      CASE01    MSCF      P                             123
  33  FVPR      CASE01    RB/DAY                                  123
  34  WVPR      CASE01    RB/DAY    I                             123
  35  WVPR      CASE01    RB/DAY    P                             123
  36  FVPT      CASE01    RB                                      123
  37  WVPT      CASE01    RB        I                             123
```

2. Type **^f** to forward scroll (down the page) one window.

Vi(sual) editor

Using vi (1 of 3)

1. This is the second window of CASE01.INDEX.RSM.

36	FVPT	CASE01	RB		123
37	WVPT	CASE01	RB	I	123
38	WVPT	CASE01	RB	P	123
39	FVIR	CASE01	RB/DAY		123
40	WVIR	CASE01	RB/DAY	I	123
41	WVIR	CASE01	RB/DAY	P	123
42	FVIT	CASE01	RB		123
43	WVIT	CASE01	RB	I	123
44	WVIT	CASE01	RB	P	123
45	FWCT	CASE01			123
46	WWCT	CASE01		I	123
47	WWCT	CASE01		P	123
48	FGOR	CASE01	MSCF/STB		123
49	WGOR	CASE01	MSCF/STB	I	123
50	WGOR	CASE01	MSCF/STB	P	123
51	FWGR	CASE01	STB/MSCF		123
52	WWGR	CASE01	STB/MSCF	I	123
53	WWGR	CASE01	STB/MSCF	P	123
54	WBHP	CASE01	PSIA	I	123
55	WBHP	CASE01	PSIA	P	123
56	WTHP	CASE01	PSIA	I	123
57	WTHP	CASE01	PSIA	P	123
58	FOPR	CASE01	STB/DAY		123
59	FOPT	CASE01	STB		123
60	FGOR	CASE01	MSCF/STB		123
61	FPR	CASE01	PSIA		123
62	WXMF_1	CASE01		P	123
63	WXMF_2	CASE01		P	123
64	WXMF_3	CASE01		P	123
65	WXMF_4	CASE01		P	123
66	WXMF_5	CASE01		P	123
67	WXMF_6	CASE01		P	123
68	WXMF_7	CASE01		P	123
69	WXMF_8	CASE01		P	123
70	WXMF_9	CASE01		P	123
71	WYMF_1	CASE01		P	123
72	WYMF_2	CASE01		P	123
73	WYMF_3	CASE01		P	123
74	WYMF_4	CASE01		P	123
75	WYMF_5	CASE01		P	123
76	WYMF_6	CASE01		P	123
77	WYMF_7	CASE01		P	123
78	WYMF_8	CASE01		P	123

Vi(sual) editor

2. Type **^f** to forward scroll (down the page) one window.

Using vi (2 of 3)

1. This is the last window of CASE01.INDEX.RSM.

```
  77  WYMF_7     CASE01              P                                  123
  78  WYMF_8     CASE01              P                                  123
  79  WYMF_9     CASE01              P                                  123
  80  BVOIL      CASE01     CP                        7    7    4       123
  81  BSOIL      CASE01                               7    7    4       123
  82  BSWAT      CASE01                               7    7    4       123
  83  BSGAS      CASE01                               7    7    4       123
  84  BPRES      CASE01     PSIA                      1    1    1       123
  85  BXMF_6     CASE01                               1    1    1       123
  86  BYMF_6     CASE01                               1    1    1       123
  87  NEWTON     CASE01     DAYS                                         123
  88  IRPTSTEP   CASE01                                                  123
1 INDEX OF FIELD DATA IN WORKSPACE
0-------------------------------------------------------------------------
    FIELD    LOCAL           DIMENSIONS          ACTIVE LGC    GRID
             GRID        X       Y       Z      CELLS  GROUPS TYPE
0-------------------------------------------------------------------------
  1 CASE01               9       9       4        324 None   Non Radial
1 INDEX OF SOLUTION DATA IN WORKSPACE
0-------------------------------------------------------------------------
     FIELD      GLOBAL LGRS MNEMONIC      TIMESTEPS   DATES
                CELLS
0-------------------------------------------------------------------------
   1 CASE01       324       PRESSURE       0 -     3  01/01/90-28/12/04
   2 CASE01       324       SOIL           0 -     3  01/01/90-28/12/04
   3 CASE01       324       VOIL           0 -     3  01/01/90-28/12/04
1 INDEX OF WELL DATA IN WORKSPACE
0-------------------------------------------------------------------------
     FIELD     LGR       TYPE  WELL NAME   WELL HEAD     TIMESTEPS
0-------------------------------------------------------------------------
   1 CASE01              G     I             1,   1       1 -      3
   2 CASE01              P     P             7,   7       1 -      3
~
```

2. Type **:q!** to exit vi without saving.
(Close CASE01.INDEX.RSM.)

Vi(sual) editor

REVIEW

Congratulations. You used the worlds most common editor to view an ASCII file on a UNIX computer.

Some of you did this from a Windows computer.

COMING UP

The next slides add some very useful vi commands.

The 14 commands are highlighted.

Vi(sual) editor

Powerful list of vi commands

DEFINITIONS

<cr>	Type a carriage return (by pressing the Enter key.)
vi	Run the visual editor.
^	Hold the control (or Ctrl) key down while pressing another key.
Esc	Press the escape (or Esc) key.

COMMANDS

OPEN FILE FOR EDITING

vi case01.rsm	View (or edit) the file named case01.rsm.

CLOSE EDITED FILE

:q!<cr>	**Exit the current file without saving any changes.**
:q<cr>	Exit the current file (provided there have been no changes.)
:w	**Write (save) the changes and continue editing.**
:wq	Write (save) the changes and quit editing.
:wfilename	Write (save) to another file (called filename.) Continue editing the original file.

MOVE CURSOR

^f	**Forward scroll (down the page) one window.**
^b	**Backward scroll (up the page) one window.**
1G	Go to the first line of the file.
G	Go to the last line of the file.
^G	Print the current line number.
0	Go to the beginning of the current line. (This is a zero.)
$	Go to the end of the current line.
Arrow keys	**Go one character left or right. Go one line up or down.**

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Powerful list of vi commands

COMMANDS

SEARCH FOR A STRING OF CHARACTERS

/abc	Search forward (down the page) for abc.
?def	Search backward (up the page) for def.
n	Repeat the last search in the same direction.
N	Repeat the last search, but in the opposite direction.

STOP EDITING

esc	**Stop adding (appending, and inserting) text.**

EDITING (INSERT TEXT)

a	Append text after the cursor.
A	Append text at the end of the current line.
i	**Insert text before the cursor. (Lower-case i.)**
I	Insert text at the beginning of the current line. (Upper-case i.)
o	Open a new (blank) line above the line with the cursor.
O	Open a new (blank) line below the line with the cursor.

EDITING (OVERWRITE TEXT)

cc	Change the current line. Press the Esc key to stop changing.
C	Change from the cursor to the end of the line.
rz	Replace the character at the cursor with the letter z.
R	**Replace several characters (starting with the cursor character) until you press the Esc key. (The R does not appear in the text.)**
sw	Substitute the letter w for the character at the cursor.
S	Substitute text until pressing Esc. (Deletes the current line.)

Vi(sual) editor

Powerful list of vi commands

COMMANDS

DELETING (CUTTING)

x	**Delete the character at the cursor.**
X	Delete the character before the cursor.
dd	**Delete the current line.**
3dd	Delete the current line. Delete the next two lines too.
D	Delete to the end of the current line. Deletes the cursor character.

COPYING

yy	**Yank the current line (without deleting.)**
4yy	Yank the current line and the next three lines too.

PASTING

p	**Paste the most recent deletion (or yank) after the current line.**
P	Paste the most recent deletion (or yank) before the current line.

UNDO

u	**Undo the most recent edit command. This is a toggle.**
U	Undo (restore) all changes to the current line.

REDO

.	Repeat the most recent edit command (once per period.)

JOIN

J	Join two lines. (Append the line after the current line to the current line)

Vi(sual) editor

This gives details on how to do "find and replace" with vi.

Replacing is an extension of Searching.

Here are examples of the syntax, followed by explanations.

6 lines of sample text follow.

1 This is the first line of sample text (aka line 1.)
2 The other lines of sample text are dummy lines.
3 They say things like the quick brown fox was in line.
4 What is the best line you know?
5 What is your line?
6 Anyway, one good line deserves another good line (says me.)

Search the current line and the next 3 lines (4 in all.)
Find the first occurrence of the character string "line " in each line.
Replace the first occurrence with another character string.
The replacement character string is "string "
Notice that both character strings have a blank space at the end.

:.,.+3s/line /string /

Vi(sual) editor

Use the following lines to test the above find and replace command.

A. put the cursor anywhere on line 3.
B. type the above commands.

1 This is the first line of sample text (aka line 1.)
2 The other lines of sample text are dummy lines.
3 They say things like the quick brown fox was in line.
4 What is the best string you know?
5 What is your line?
6 Anyway, one good string deserves another good line (says me.)

Notice that there were only two (2) replaces.
One in line 4, and another in line 6.
In line 3 "line." is NOT a match.
In line 5 "line?" is NOT a match.
In line 6 only the first "line " is a match.

Let's start over and try a global replace.

:.,.+3s/line /string /g

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Use the following lines to test the above find and replace command.

A. put the cursor anywhere on line 3.
B. type the above commands.

1 This is the first line of sample text (aka line 1.)
2 The other lines of sample text are dummy lines.
3 They say things like the quick brown fox was in line.
4 What is the best string you know?
5 What is your line?
6 Anyway, one good string deserves another good string (says me.)

This time both "line " strings were replaced with "string " strings.

We could have replaced "line " in the entire file.

:1,$s/line /string /g

WARNING: THIS IS A BAD IDEA.
WARNING: THIS COMMAND WILL CHANGE A LOT OF STUFF.

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We can identify the lines in question with the ctrl-g command.
I already checked.
"1 This is the first string of ..." is line 83.
and "6 Anyway, one good string ..." is line 88.
We can find and replace in those lines.

:83,88s/line /string /g

Use the following lines to test the above find and replace command.
A. put the cursor anywhere on line 3.
B. type the above commands.

1 This is the first string of sample text (aka string 1.)
2 The other lines of sample text are dummy lines.
3 They say things like the quick brown fox was in line.
4 What is the best string you know?
5 What is your line?
6 Anyway, one good string deserves another good string (says me.)

This time "string " replaced "line " 5 times.

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MORE?

You can get detailed help for vi commands from the vi-help.ppt.

UNIX computers have on-line help files. Type “man vi <cr>” to get detailed help.

The file named vi-help.txt is an ASCII file that summarizes “man vi <cr>.” You can use vi-help.txt on both UNIX and Windows computers.

The file named vi-help.doc is a Microsoft Word document that summarizes “man vi <cr>.”

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Vi(sual) editor

REVIEW

You learned how to view (and edit) UNIX files using vi.

Vi comes with all UNIX computers. You can edit files on any UNIX computer in the world using vi.

Other UNIX editors are easier to use. Other editors are only available on some UNIX computers (unless you install the software.)

Windows computers can use terminal emulation software to access a UNIX computer and use vi.

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Vi is a universal ASCII editor the is (said to be) available on all UNIX computers.

The author likes to be immediately productive on all UNIX computers. Knowing basic vi commands is one way to do this.

The author readily admits that it is much easier to learn to use a graphical user interface (gui.)

This tutorial starts with a small number of the most common and useful vi commands. This is followed by a brief review of basic UNIX line commands. (See vi.ppt.) Then there is an example of using vi. This is followed by a more detailed list of vi commands.

The next section presents the pros and cons of vi's find-and-replace command.

This tutorial closes with a discussion of additional help sources for vi.