

Session 3: Vim



P. S. Langeslag

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sed Replacement

Operation	Effect
<code>sed s/He/She/ file</code>	Replace all instances of He in file with She (-s for “substitute”); print result to stdout, leaving file untouched
<code>sed -n s/He/She/p file</code>	Ditto, but print affected lines only (-n for “no output”; p for “print”)
<code>sed -n s/He/She/pI file</code>	Ditto, but case insensitive (I for “insensitive”); note unwanted effects
<code>sed -n s/He/She/gpI file</code>	Ditto, replace beyond the first match in the string (sentence) (g for “global”)
<code>sed -i.bak s/He/She/ file</code>	Ditto, but save results to original file and copy original file to backup file file.bak (-i for “insert”); no output
<code>sed -i s/He/She/ file</code>	Ditto, but without backup file! Risky!
<code>sed -i s/He/She/ *</code>	Ditto, but for every file in working directory. Highly risky!

Teleprinter (Teletype/TTY, *Fernschreiber*)



Figure: Siemens Fernschreiber 100 (copyleft WMC user)

A Selective History of Modern Editors

1965–66	QED	Line editor, exclusively designed for teleprinters . UNIX developer Ken Thompson modified it for the CTSS timesharing operating system and added support for regular expressions.
1971	ed	Modal UNIX editor inspired on QED, supporting regular expressions and input from <code>stdin</code>
1973	sed	UNIX line-oriented stream editor based on ed, with regular expression capability. NB in-place editing was only added in the GNU implementation.
1976	ex	BSD editor modifying ed for use on video terminals
1978	vi	A version of ex that defaults to visual mode
1991	Vim	Highly customizable fork of vi

Vim Modes

1. Normal mode (command mode)
 2. Insert mode (accessed through insert commands i, a, A, c, o, O)
 3. Visual mode (v)
- ▶ <ESC> returns you to normal mode.
 - ▶ In normal mode, <ESC> cancels any unfinished commands

Interlinear Navigation

j	One line down
k	One line up
5j	Five lines down, etc.
gj	One screen line down (when wrapped)
gk	One screen line up (when wrapped)
5gj	Five screen lines down (when wrapped), etc.
H	To top of current screen
M	To vertical centre of current screen
L	To bottom of current screen
Ctrl+F	One screen page down (or use <PgDown>)
Ctrl+U	One screen page up (or use <PgUp>)
gg	To top of file
G	To bottom of file
:n	To line n

- ▶ NB I have mapped the cursor keys to gj, gk!
- ▶ See :help up-down-motions

Intraline Navigation

h, l	Single-step cursor navigation
5h	Five characters to the left, etc.
w	To start of next word
5w	Five words to the right, etc.
e	To end of current/next word
b	To beginning of current/last word
0	To start of line
^	To first nonblank character in line
\$	To end of line
gm	To middle of screen line
5	To column 5 (i.e. character position 5)

▶ See :help word-motions

Text Object Navigation

(,)	One sentence back or forward
5(, 5)	Five sentences back or forward, etc.
{, }	One paragraph back or forward
[[,]]	One section back or forward
%	Go to matching parenthesis, bracket, or curly brace (of the next such opening item in the current line); in e.g. <code>\LaTeXit</code> matches opening/closing tags.

- ▶ See
 - ▶ `:help object-motions`
 - ▶ `:help various-motions`

Modification Commands

i, a, A	Insert/append text at cursor position/to end of line
o, O	Insert text on a new line after or before current
x	Delete current character
5x	Delete five characters starting at current
dw	Delete remainder of current word
5dw	Delete five words starting at current character
db	Delete back to beginning of current word
D	Delete rest of line
dd	Delete current line
5dd	Delete five lines starting at current
r[char]	Replace a single character
5r[char]	Replace five characters with five times [char]
cw	Delete remainder of word and drop into insert mode
cb	Delete beginning of word and drop into insert mode
c5w	Delete five words and drop into insert mode
c\$	Delete remainder of line and drop into insert mode

▶ See :help change.txt

Undo and Redo

<code>u</code>	Undo last operation
<code>CTRL+R</code>	Redo last operation
<code>U</code>	Undo all the last operations on last modified line
<code>:undol[ist]</code>	List branching nodes
<code>:u[ndo] n</code>	Go to text state following change number n
<code>g-</code>	Go to earlier text state
<code>5g-</code>	Go five text states back up the undo tree
<code>g+</code>	Go to newer text state
<code>:earlier 1h</code>	Go to text state of one hour ago
<code>:later 30s</code>	Go to text state of 30 seconds after current undo node

- ▶ `u` and `CTRL+R` treat undo history as a single branch
- ▶ `g-`, `g+`, `:earlier`, and `:later` move through all changes
- ▶ Everything you do between entering and leaving insert mode counts as one change; train yourself to leave it regularly!
- ▶ See `:help undo.txt`

Yank and Put

yw	Copy remainder of word to default register
5yw	Copy five words to register, starting at current character
y\$	Copy remainder of line to register
yy	Copy current line to register
5yy	Copy five lines to register, starting at current
p	Paste from default register
:reg	Display registers
"5p	Paste fifth-last stored string
"aay	Copy full line to named register a
"bdw	Delete word and copy to named register b
"ap	Paste from named register a
5p	Paste from default register five times

- ▶ Anything you cut using x or d also goes into the buffer
- ▶ See :help copy-move

Visual Mode

v to enter visual mode; then use word motions to make a visual selection, y to copy to buffer, or x to cut.

Search and Repeat

/	Input search query (accepts regular expressions)
n	Repeat search (navigate to next hit)
N	Repeat search (navigate to previous hit)
.	Apply last edit to the current position

- ▶ Vim's regex implementation differs from PCRE!
- ▶ See :help pattern.txt; <http://vimregex.com>

File Operations

<code>:w</code>	Save file
<code>:w filename</code>	Save file to filename
<code>:q</code>	Exit without saving
<code>:q!</code>	Exit without saving; disregard warnings
<code>:wq / ZZ</code>	Save file and exit

- ▶ When file is not successfully closed, the swap file `.file.swp` remains and you receive a warning prompt when next opening it. Check that the swap file is identical to the file itself, then run

```
rm .file.swp
```

Settings

<code>:set ic</code>	Ignore case (I have set this as default)
<code>:set noic</code>	Heed case
<code>:set wrap</code>	Use line wrapping (default)
<code>:set nowrap</code>	Disable line wrapping
<code>:syntax on</code>	Enable syntax highlighting (default)
<code>:syntax off</code>	Disable syntax highlighting

- ▶ See `:help options`
- ▶ For help on individual options, use single quotes: `:help 'syntax'`
- ▶ Set persistent options in `~/.vimrc`

Interacting With Files and Programs

<code>:r[ead] file</code>	Read contents of file into current file
<code>:so[urce] file</code>	Interpret file as a sequence of Vim commands
<code>:shell</code>	Open a shell; return with exit
<code>:!cmd</code>	Run cmd; e.g. <code>:!ls</code>

▶ See

- ▶ `:help :r`
- ▶ `:help :so`
- ▶ `:help :shell`
- ▶ `:help :!cmd`

Windows

:new / CTRL+W n	Start a new file in a new window (horizontal split)
:vne	Start a new file in a new window (vertical split)
CTRL+W j (or <DOWN>)	Make the lower window active
CTRL+W k (or <UP>)	Make the upper window active
:q	Close the active window
:on[ly]	Close all windows except the active one

Getting Help

<code>:help</code>	Main help file
<code>:help quickref</code>	Terse list of motions and commands
<code>:help usr_toc.txt</code>	Table of contents of user manual

- ▶ Use the names of commands, options, and tags to get help, e.g.
 - ▶ `:help c` for help on the `c` command
 - ▶ `:help up-down-motions` for interlinear navigation commands
 - ▶ `:help 'ic'` for an explanation of the `ignorecase` option
- ▶ In the help files, tags serve as hyperlinks:
 - ▶ CTRL+] to visit
 - ▶ CTRL+O to return
- ▶ Close a help pane as you would any read-only Vim file, with `:q`

vi Mode on the Command Line

- ▶ Add the following line to ~/.bashrc:

```
set -o vi
```

Vim on Your Own System

OS X

Included; open a terminal and enter `vim`

Linux

Included or in package repositories; install the `gvim` package for full clipboard functionality

Windows

Download from <http://www.vim.org>

Terminal or Graphical?

Whatever works for you

References and Recommended Reading

Moolenaar, Bram. “Vim Online,” n.d. <http://www.vim.org>.

Raisky, Oleg. “Vim Regular Expressions 101,” n.d.
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Sebastopol, CA: O’Reilly, 2011.

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