

Introduction to VI

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Invoking the editor

```
vi my_file  
or  
vim my_file
```

Two Basic Modes

- Text insertion mode
 - press escape: go to command mode
- Command mode
 - press a: append after current character
 - press i: insert before current character
 - press o: open new line below
 - press O: open new line above

Commands

- J - Join next line to current line
- ZZ - Save and exit
- u – undo
- / search forward
- ? search backward
- dd delete a line
- x delete a character

Substitution

- `:{line},{line}s/{pattern}/text/{flags}`
- `{line}`
 - Can be a literal line number
 - `.` means current line
 - `.+1` means the next line
 - `$` means bottom of file
 - `'{letter}'` means mark
- `{flags}`



{pattern}

- ^ matches the start of a line
- \$ matches the end of a line
- . matches any character
- [a-n] matches any letter from a to n
- * matches 0 or more of the previous character
- \t matches tab
- \< match start of word



Substitution examples:

- `1,30s/foo/bar/` - replaces the first occurrence of the word "foo" with "bar" on lines 1 to 30
- `1,$s/x/y/g` - replaces every occurrence of "x" with "y" in the whole file.
- `'a,'bs/^\<x\>/y/g` – replace whole word "x" with "y" from line marked a to line marked b

Ex Commands

- `{range}m{line}` – move text
- `{range}co{line}` – copy text
- `:w` – write
- `{range}w` – write
- `{range}w! x` – force a write to x
- `:q` – quit
- `:q!` - really quit
- `:redo`

Special Ex Commands

- `:set ai` – set auto indent
- `:set nu` – turn on line numbering
- `:set background=light`
- `:set background=dark`
- Put these in your `~/.vimrc` for ease of use