What Every Vi User Should Know about Vim

Getting Started

- Microsoft Windows users – Get Vim from http://www.vim.org

- Linux users, check to see that the _advanced_ version of the Vim package is installed.

- Bleeding edge user, get the source at http://www.vim.org

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Unix Vim Starts in Vi mode unless you tell it different

- Create a .vimrc file to turn on many of Vim's nicer features.

  $ **touch ~/.vimrc**

- Starting Vim with it's own window.

  $ **gvim {file}**

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First Differences

- The undo (**u**) command handles multiple levels.   (Use **CTRL-R** to redo a command.)

- Vim has a help system that is mostly complete and actually useful:

  `:help`

Help System

- Normal commands
  `:help d`
  `:help CTRL-D`
  `:help :s`
- Help for options
  `:help 'sw'`
- Insert mode commands
  `:help i_CTRL-D`
- Help for visual mode commands
  `:help v_d`

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Splitting Windows

- Open a new window

  `:split {file}`

- Close a window

  `:q`

  `ZZ`

- Up / Down windows

  `CTRL-Wj CTRL-Wk`

Vertical Windows

- Vertical Spliting

  `:vsplit {file}`

- Any command which opens a window can be preceeded by:

  `:vertical`

- Left / Right windows

  `CTRL-Wh CTRL-Wl`

Building Programs

- Start a build
  `:make`
- Current, next, previous error
  `:cc`
  `:cn`
  `:cp`
- Open a window with the list of errors
  `:copen`

Searching Options

- Highlight searches
  `:set hlsearch`
- Turn it off (for now)
  `:nohl`
- Incremental searches
  `:copen`

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Visual Mode

- Character visual mode
  v (lower case)
- Line visual mode
  V (upper case)
- Block visual mode
  Ctrl-V

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Indenting

- Setting the indent size

  `:set sw=4`

- Turning on C Style Indentation

  `:set cindent`

- Indenting a block of text (from { to })

  `=%`

  `v%=`

Spelling

- Turn on spell checking
  `:set spell`
- Word correction
  `z=`

Tabs

- Change tabs into spaces (on insert)
  `:set expandtabs`
- Changing tabs into spaces (in a file)
  `1g!Gexpand`
- *Do not turn expandtabs for Makefiles.*

Seeing Tabs

- Seeing the invisible

  `:set list`

- Seeing normal

  `:set nolist`

Autocommands

- In your .vimrc

```
:autocmd FileType *.[ch]
\ set cindent,expandtabs
```

Keyboard Macros

- Starting a keyboard macro

  qa

- Ending a macro

  q

- Executing macro

  @a

Abbreviations and Mappings

- Defining an abbreviation

  `:define #i #include`

- Defining a keyboard mapping

  `:map <F7> =%`

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