

## VI/VIM Cheat Sheet

### General format for commands

vi *[n]*operator*[m]*object  
ex :*[address]*command*[options]*

### Invoking and exiting vi

`$vi file` Invoke vi  
`$view file` Opens file in read-only mode  
`:wq` Write and quit  
`:w` Write  
`:w file` Write to file  
`:w! file` Overwrite existing file  
`:q` Quit  
`:q!` Force quit

### Display Text (CTRL+<character>)

d Scroll down  
u Page forward  
f Page forward  
b Page backward

### Cursor Movement

<RIGHT>, Next character  
<SP>, or l  
<LEFT>, Previous character  
<BS>, or h  
<DOWN> or Character below  
j  
<UP> or k Character above  
<RET> Beginning of line  
- Beginning of previous line  
G Go to last line  
:*[n]* Go to line number *[n]*  
\$ End of line  
w or *[n]*w Forward beginning of  
word (*[n]* words)  
e or *[n]*e End of word (*[n]* words)  
b or *[n]*b Back beginning of word  
(*[n]* words)

### Text Creation

a Append after cursor  
i Insert before cursor  
o Open line below  
O Open line above  
<ESC> Exit text entry mode

### Delete Text

x or *[n]*x Delete character (*[n]*  
characters)  
r*[c]* Replace character with *[c]*  
dd or *[n]*dd Delete current line (or *[n]*  
lines)  
dw Delete word  
d\$ Delete to end of line  
u Undo last editing command

### Searching

/[*string*] Escape following character  
?[*string*] Begin literal sequence  
n Next match  
N Previous match

### Change Text

*[n]*s[*string*] Substitute *[n]* characters  
with [*string*]  
cc[*string*] Change line with[*string*]  
*[n]*cc[*string*] Change *[n]* lines with  
[*string*]  
cw[*string*] Change word to [*string*]  
c\$[*string*] Change end of line to  
[*string*]  
*[n]*J Join [textitn] lines  
r<RET> Split line  
:%s/[*string*] Substitute [*string*] with  
/[*newstring*]  
/g

### Copying Text

yy Yank entire line  
*[n]*yy Yank *n* lines *[n]*  
yw Yank word  
y\$ Yank to end of line  
p Put after character  
P Put before character

### Setting options

:set number Turn on line numbers  
:set nonumber Turn off line numbers  
:set list Display tabs and end  
of lines  
:set nolist Turn off list  
:set showmode Indicate input mode  
:set noshowmode Turn off showmode  
:set wm=10 Define automatic  
right margin  
:set wm=0 Turn off wm  
Remove semicolon for usage in ~/.vimrc

### Multiple Input Windows

:vsplit file Open another file  
vertically  
:split file Open another file  
horizontally  
<CTRL>+w Switch active window  
:[*cmd*] Run [*cmd*] in active  
window

### Miscellaneous

xp Transpose 2 characters  
:r file Read file into buffer  
:[*cmd*]% Run shell command [*cmd*]  
on current file  
<CTRL>+l Redraw screen  
\$vi -r file Recovery