Ten Things You Don't Know About Vim

Who am I?

- Vi/Vim user for 20 years

- A student of Vim; not an expert

- Also user of BBEdit, Sublime, Eclipse, IntelliJ, etc; have used Emacs but never seriously

What is Vim?

- ❖ Descendant of Vi, Ex, Ed

- ❖ Modal text editor mostly for programmers

- ❖ Long learning curve is an investment

- ❖ Programming language; full undo tree; plugin system; and syntax highlighting

Vim is Upside-Down

- GUIs are:

  - select an object; then perform an action on it

- Vim is:

  - pick an action; then apply it to the text delineated by a motion

Vi Compatibility

❖ Vi compatibility is a *bad* thing; it means no special Vim features

❖ Cure it with one or more of:

> ❖ vim -N

> ❖ ~/.vimrc

> ❖ :set nocompatible

> ❖ Vim >= version 8.0

Plugins

- Vundle

- vim-sensible

- vim-surround

- ctrlp.vim

Help

- on help (:help :help)

- on concepts (:help text-objects)

- on key sequences (:help i_CTRL-V)

- on settings and variable names (:help 'compatible')

- on Vimscript functions (:help submatch())

- on Plugins (:help surround)

Visual Mode

❖ Turns Vim Upside-Right Again: select some text; then perform an action on it

❖ character-wise (v)

❖ line-wise (V)

❖ block-wise(^V)

Text Objects

- ❖ {i, a} + {w, W, s, p, [, (, {, <, t, ", ', `}

- ❖ demonstrate vim-surround

Editing Multiple Files

- Buffers

- Windows

- Tabs

- demonstrate Ctrl-P

The Mouse

- ❖ Windows & Tabs

- ❖ Visual Mode

- ❖ Drag & Drop

Registers

- The unnamed register ""

- "*, "+

- "=

- "a-"z or "A-"Z

- "0-"9

- everything else: "_, ":, "., "%, "#, "-, "/, "~

Macros

- ❖ Repetitive work, too big for '.'

- ❖ Edit in a buffer, yank back into a register; use CTRL-V for special characters

Interaction with the Shell

* Shell commands
  :!ls

* Switching out to the shell
  :shell

* Filter lines
  :1,$!awk '{print $1;}'

* Expression register
  :inoremap <leader>G <C-R>=system("./guid.py")<cr>

Search & Replace

- hlsearch, incsearch

- search history

- *, #, visual-star-search plugin

- Very magic mode

- Confirm substitution

- vimgrep, grep, ack

- ctags

Odds & Ends

- browse (:browse :set)

- mksession (:mksession session.vim)

- Autocomplete

- vim-fugitive

- NERDTree

- Edit Remote Files

- Edit Zip Archives

Resources

❖ Practical Vim

❖ Wicked Cool Vim

❖ Learn VimScript the Hard Way

❖ vimcasts.org

❖ vim.org

❖ github.com/wolf/dot-files