Vim as Text Editor

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Abstract—**Vim is a text editor that has been around for 27 years. Vim is in every Unix computer. Vim is command-line based editor. Vim has a lot of plugins that helped for using Vim. User also can make his own plugin using Vim Script**

Keywords-component; Vim; Text Editor; Plugin

I. INTRODUCTION

Vim is a text editor that used in terminal. Vim is written by Bram Moolenar and released at 2 November 1991. Vim is based on Vi Text Editor for Unix. Vim is acronym of "Vi Improved". Vim is developed because Vi has a lot of flaw.

Vim is a modal text editor. What is modal text editor? Modal text editor is a text editor that has different modes for different kind of use. It has Normal Mode, Insert Mode, Visual Mode, Replace Mode, Command Mode, Ex Mode, etc. Normal Mode is what we will use the most, because it used for navigation. Insert Mode is used for writing to text editor.

II. ADVANTAGE OF USE

Why should everybody use Vim? Isn't it already old? Vim is old, but it does not mean that other text editor is better than Vim. Here I will show some of the advantage of using Vim

A. It exist in every Unix Machine

If someone open Unix Machine, it guaranteed that it has Vim, or at least Vi. It should be worth it to learn it.

B. Faster

Vim is very fast, because it run in terminal

C. Macros

Vim has macro system that allows to record keypresses for later use. Macro consist of simple operations that combined.

D. Vim Script

Vim script is a scripting language that can be used to make a script for Vim. It is based on ex editor language.

E. Extremely Powerful Searching Capability

Vim has very good tool for searching and replacing. It also have built-in version of grep command, that used for searching.

III. BASIC USE OF VIM

After knowing every advantage of using Vim, now I will explain how to use Vim

A. Navigating around Vim

For navigating around Vim, we have to enter Normal Mode first. It is the first mode when we enter Vim, or we can press Esc to exit from another mode to normal mode. Basic navigation in Vim use 4 keys, these are h, j, k, and l. H to go left, j to go bottom, k to go to top, and l to go to right.

B. Mode in Vim

There are a lot of mode in Vim to use
- Press i to enter insert mode. Insert mode is used for writing to text editor

- Press v to enter visual mode

- Press r to enter replace mode

- Press esc to move from other mode to normal mode

C. Another key that usually used

- Press x to delete a character
- Press u to undo
- Press dd to delete a line
- Press p to paste
- Press y to cut (yank)
- Press 0 to move to the start of line

D. Most Common Vim Plugins

For helping in using Vim, I will show most used plugin in Vim:

1) Pathogen
This plugin used to manage other plugins.

2) The NERD Tree
This plugin is used as tree explorer in Vim. It allows the user to explore the filesystem inside Vim. It also compatible with mouse.

3) Syntastic
This plugin is used for checking syntax. It created by Martin Grenfall. It will notify user if the file has syntax error when saved, so the user does not need to compile the file.

4) fugitive.vim

This plugin is used for integrating Vim with git, so we can use git command inside Vim editor.

5) The NERD Commenter

This plugin is used to make commenting in Vim easier. Vim does not have default key for commenting.

IV. CONCLUSION

Vim is a very excellent text editor that has been used for 27 years. It is also free, and a lot of contributor has made Vim even more better. The community is also helping in the growth of Vim. It also has a lot plugins that can be used to help using Vim. I think everybody should try Vim and learn it, at least the basic.

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