

# VI tips

## Set tab size and convert tabs to spaces

```
:set tabstop=4  
:retab
```

## Turn off autoindent when you paste code

To toggle this in VI on the fly to switch off auto-indent

```
:set paste
```

and to switch it back on

```
:set nopaste
```

In .vimrc this can be set:

```
set copyindent
```

Another alternative via .vimrc is:

```
set clipboard=unnamed
```

That makes the default paste buffer map to X's clipboard. When a bit of text is highlighted in a terminal, it can be pasted into vim by simply press p to paste. Similarly, one can yank things in vim (e.g. YY to yank the current line into the buffer) and middle click in any window to paste it.

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