

VI tips

Quick save

Press SHIFT + ZZ which is equivalent to :x which is equivalent to :wq, except that it only saves if the file has been changed.

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.

Default 4 tab spaces

in ~/.vimrc

```
filetype plugin indent on  
" show existing tab with 4 spaces width  
set tabstop=4  
" when indenting with '>', use 4 spaces width
```

```
set shiftwidth=4
" On pressing tab, insert 4 spaces
set expandtab
```

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