

## Re: vim question – comment multiple lines

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2003-09/1147.html>

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**Date:** 09/10/03

To: [redhat-list@redhat.com](mailto:redhat-list@redhat.com)

Date: Wed, 10 Sep 2003 14:32:10 +1000

On 00:17 10 Sep 2003, Herculano de Lima Einloft Neto <[hlen@ig.com.br](mailto:hlen@ig.com.br)> wrote:

| I guess this is an easy one.. how can I insert / delete something at  
| the beginning of each line of a block in vi? Still can't figure it,  
| though there must be at least ten ways.

For lines 10 to 20:

```
:10,20s/^/foo /
```

Or you can just mark both lines (go to first line, type ka, go to last line, type kb) and then:

```
:'a,'bs/^/foo /
```

and so forth. Don't forget that vi has an entire line-mode editor (ex) underneath it, accessible via the : key. See "man ex" and/or "man ed" for more info on the line mode. It's very handy for stuff like this. Ex is pretty much a complete superset of the ed editor.

And of course, once adept at using ed/ex, you're also much of the way to being adept with the sed command...

Cheers,

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Software engineering? That's like military intelligence, isn't it?

- Doug Mohny <[sysmgr@king.eng.umd.edu](mailto:sysmgr@king.eng.umd.edu)>

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