

8. Macros

Buffers can also act as macros if they contain valid vi or ex commands.
To execute such a macro, type:

```
@a      - where "a" is the name of the buffer
```

Example: From a file containing definitions of complex macros, yank one paragraph (say, 20 lines) to a named buffer "a". Then return to a file you were originally editing and type @a.

The commands contained in the buffer will be executed on the file being edited.

It is possible to make files act as vi macros by using command:

```
:so filename
```

The most powerful macros, however, are created using programs combined into shell scripts (or DOS batch files), and acting as filters on the text sent to them from within vi. Such shell scripts or programs must take standard input and send results to standard output (which most UNIX tools do).

Even though seemingly strange at first, with a little practice using vi becomes second nature.

```
/* The article above and any accompanying files are freely
 * distributable, but please leave this notice and the text intact.
 * Home for this document: http://www.infobound.com/vi.html
 * Copyright (C) 1994, 1999 Tony Thomas
 * Contact author through email:tony@infobound.com
 * Last revision Feb 23, 1999
 * UNIX is a trademark of X/Open
 */
```

current rating:

image:rdf newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rdf.png (null)

|

image:rss newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rss.png (null)

|
image:Atom newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/atom.png (null)
- Powered by
image:LeopardCMS / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/leopardcms.png (null)
- Running on
image:Gentoo / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/gentoo.png (null)
-
Copyright 2004-2020 Sascha Nitsch Unternehmensberatung GmbH
image:Valid XHTML1.1 / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/xhtml.png (null)
:
image:Valid CSS / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/css.png (null)
:
image:buttonmaker / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/buttonmaker.png (null)
- Level Triple-A Conformance to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 -
- Copyright and legal notices -
Time to create this page: ms
<!--
image:system status display / /status/output.jpg (null)
-->