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FreeBSD Install VIM Editor Without X11 GUI

by [nixCraft](#) on January 16, 2009 · [4 comments](#) · last updated at January 16, 2009

Q. I'm running FreeBSD on an old PC and find that all the visual bells and whistles in FreeBSD X11 are really slowing things down. How do I install vim text editor under FreeBSD without using GUI (gvim) version? How do I build vim port without X11 GUI?



A. You can easily build VIM without X11 under FreeBSD. First, update your ports tree, using portsnap command, enter:

```
# portsnap fetch update
```

Install vim without X11, enter:

```
# cd /usr/ports/editors/vim
```

```
# make WITHOUT_X11=yes install clean
```

Optional: vim configuration

Copy /usr/local/share/vim/vimXY/vimrc_example.vim to /usr/local/share/vimrc, enter:

```
# cp /usr/local/share/vim/vim72/vimrc_example.vim /usr/local/share/vimrc
```

Create your ~/.vimrc file, enter:

```
$ vi ~/.vimrc
```

Add customization:

```
set nocompatible
filetype on
filetype indent on
filetype plugin on
set laststatus=2
```

Save and close the file. Set bash alias, enter:

```
$ echo "alias vi='vim'" >> ~/.bashrc
```

Setup [INPUTRC for bash](#), enter:

```
# echo 'export INPUTRC=/usr/local/etc/inputrc' >> /etc/profile
```

Finally, create `/usr/local/etc/inputrc`, enter:

```
# cat >> /usr/local/etc/inputrc
```

Append config:

```
set meta-flag on
set input-meta on
set convert-meta off
set output-meta on
"\e[1~": beginning-of-line
"\e[4~": end-of-line
"\e[5~": beginning-of-history
"\e[6~": end-of-history
"\e[3~": delete-char
"\e[2~": quoted-insert
"\e[5C": forward-word
"\e[5D": backward-word
```



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1 Kusal January 17, 2009 at 1:08 pm

Thank you

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2 Mel January 27, 2009 at 7:22 pm

Alternate:

```
# echo 'WITH_VIM_OPTIONS=yes' >>/etc/make.conf
```

You can now choose vim options using the standard configuration dialog.

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3 gooonmunster March 8, 2009 at 8:41 pm

Is it possible to get firefox to run on Freebsd without X11, KDE or GNOME?

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4 Vivek Gite March 8, 2009 at 9:43 pm

Noop, you cannot install Firefox without X11.

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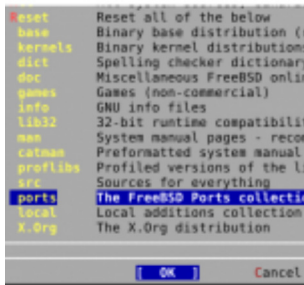
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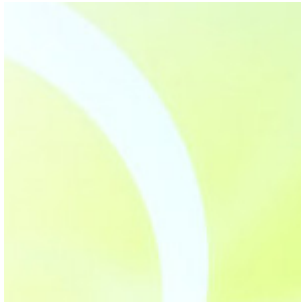
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