

Editing Files with Vi

What You Will Learn

- How to use the vi editor.

The Vi Editor

- Has advanced and powerful features
- Not intuitive
- Harder to learn than nano
- Requires a time investment

The Vi Editor

`vi [file]` Edit file.

`vim [file]` Same as vi, but more features.

`view [file]` Starts vim in read-only mode.

Vi Command Mode and Navigation

- k Up one line.
- j Down one line.
- h Left one character.
- l Right one character.
- w Right one word.
- b Left one word.
- ^ Go to the beginning of the line.
- \$ Go to the end of the line.

Vi Navigation Keys



Vi Insert Mode

- i Insert at the cursor position.
- I Insert at the beginning of the line.
- a Append after the cursor position.
- A Append at the end of the line.

Vi Line Mode

- `:w` Writes (saves) the file.
- `:w!` Forces the file to be saved.
- `:q` Quit.
- `:q!` Quit without saving changes.
- `:wq!` Write and quit.
- `:x` Same as `:wq`.

Vi Line Mode

- `:n` Positions the cursor at line n.
- `:$` Positions the cursor on the last line.
- `:set nu` Turn on line numbering.
- `:set nonu` Turn off line numbering.
- `:help [subcommand]` Get help.

Vi Modes

Mode	Key
Command	Esc
Insert	i l a A
Line	:

Vi - Repeating Commands

- Repeat a command by preceding it with a number.
 - 5k = Move up a line 5 times
 - 80i<Text><ESC> = Insert <Text> 80 times
 - 80i_<Esc> = Insert 80 "_" characters

Vi - Deleting Text

- x Delete a character.
- dw Delete a word.
- dd Delete a line.
- D Delete from the current position.

Vi - Changing Text

- `r` Replace the current character.
- `cw` Change the current word.
- `cc` Change the current line.
- `c$` Change the text from the current position.
- `C` Same as `c$`.
- `~` Reverses the case of a character.

Vi - Copying and Pasting

`yy` Yank (copy) the current line.

`y<position>` Yank the `<position>`.

`p` Paste the most recent deleted or yanked text.

Vi - Undo / Redo

u Undo

Ctrl-R Redo

Vi - Searching

`/<pattern>`

Start a forward search.

`?<pattern>`

Start a reverse search.

Summary

- More advanced than nano
- Vi has three modes