

pico editor

- What is Pico?
- Pico is a file editor used on LINUX systems.
- It comes with pine, where it is used by default to compose new messages, but it can also be used as a stand-alone editor.
- It is invoked by the command `pico filename`, where filename is replaced with the name of your file.
- Editing commands are invoked by control key sequences (i.e. pressing the control key together with another key.)
- Key strokes that do not constitute control key sequences are entered as text at the current cursor position.

Cursor Movements

- You can move your cursor by using the arrow keys. You may also use any of the following editing commands:
- Ctrl-a Beginning of current line
- Ctrl-e End of current line
- Ctrl-v Forward one screen
- Ctrl-y Backward one screen
- Ctrl-f Forward a character
- Ctrl-b Backward a character
- Ctrl-p Previous line
- Ctrl-n Next line

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- **Saving a File:**

You can save the file you are working on by using the Ctrl-o (write out) command. If you exit Pico by using the Ctrl-x (exit) command, you will be given a chance to save the file.

- **Deleting Text:**

- Ctrl-d Delete the character the cursor is on
- Ctrl-e Delete to end of current line
- Ctrl-k Delete the line the cursor is on
- Ctrl-u Restore the last line that was deleted

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- **Cutting and Pasting:**

You can mark text for cutting and pasting by using the Ctrl-^ command. After entering this command, move the cursor to highlight the text you wish to cut. Use Ctrl-k (Cut) to cut the text. Then use Ctrl-u (Uncut) to paste it.

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- **Searching:**
- You can search for a given text by using the Ctrl-w command.
- The search is NOT case sensitive. After entering the command, you will be prompted for the text for which you want to search.
- If you press Enter at this point, Pico will repeat the last search.
- All searches start at the current cursor position and wrap around to the beginning of the file.
- To move to the last line in the file, type Ctrl-w (where is), Ctrl-v (last line). To move to the first line of the file type Ctrl-w (Where is) Ctrl-v (first line)

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- **Justifying Text:**
- The justify command, Ctrl-j, will remove extra white space and new lines to make lines as equal in length as possible. It operates on the paragraph where the cursor is currently positioned.
- **Spell Checking:**
- Pico includes an spell check function which can be invoked with Ctrl-t.
- It will flag words it cannot find and give you a chance to edit them, but will not suggest a correct spelling or allow you to customize the dictionary.
- You can also use ispell, a more sophisticated spell checker, on any file.
- At the command prompt, type ispell filename , where "filename" is the name of the file you want to spell check.

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- **Command Line Options:**
- The following command line options are available for use when Pico is invoked (e.g. `pico -w filename`):
 - `-w` Disables word wrapping
 - `+x` (`x` is an integer) Starts the cursor `x` lines into the buffer
 - `-nx` (`x` is an integer) Checks your mailbox every `x` seconds and notifies you if you have new mail.

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- **Miscellaneous:**
- Ctrl-c will report the current cursor position in the buffer by both line number and character at the bottom of the screen.
- Read a file into pico with Ctrl-r and write one from pico with Ctrl-o. After either of these commands, you can enter Ctrl-t (list files) to invoke the file browser.
- The file browser will allow you to step through the directory structure, see a listing of all files in a given directory, copy files, rename files, and delete files.