Editors in Linux

Editors in Linux

- Linux text editors can be used for editing text files, writing codes, updating files and more. A Linux system supports multiple text editors.
- A text editor plays an important role while coding. So, it is important to select the best text editor. A text editor should not only be simple but also functional and should be good to work with.
- A text editor with IDE features is considered as a good text editor.

Linux File Editor(vi)

- The **VI editor** is the most popular and classic text editor in the Linux family.
  Below are the reasons why it is widely used
  1) It is available in almost all Linux Distributions.
  2) It works the same across different platforms and Distributions.
  3) It is user-friendly. Hence, millions of Linux users love it and use it for their editing needs.

- Now a days advanced version of VI editor ,VIM is used which is VI improved.

- You can use the vi editor to edit an existing file or to create a new file from scratch. You can also use this editor to just read a text file.

starting with vi editor

SNO	Command & Description
1	vi filename Creates a new file if it already does not exist, otherwise opens an existing file.
2	vi -R filename Opens an existing file in the read-only mode.
3	view filename Opens an existing file in the read-only mode.

Operation modes

- While working with the vi editor, we usually come across the following two modes –

- **Command mode** – This mode enables you to perform administrative tasks such as saving the files, executing the commands, moving the cursor, cutting and pasting the lines or words, as well as finding and replacing. In this mode, whatever you type is interpreted as a command.

Operation modes

- **Insert mode** – This mode enables you to insert text into the file. Everything that's typed in this mode is interpreted as input and placed in the file.

- vi always starts in the command mode. To enter text, you must be in the insert mode for which simply type i. To come out of the insert mode, press the Esc key, which will take you back to the command mode.

VI Editing Commands

Below are some of the essential commands to use in VI.

- i – Inserts at cursor (gets into the insert mode)

- a – Writes after the cursor (gets into the insert mode)

- A – Writes at the ending of a line (gets into the insert mode)

- o – Opens a new line (gets into the insert mode)

- ESC – Terminates the insert mode

VI Editing Commands

u – Undo the last change.

U – Undo all changes of the entire line.

D – Deletes the content of a line after the cursor.

R – Overwrites characters from the cursor onwards. (replace)

r – Replaces a character.

s – Substitutes one character under the cursor and continue to insert

S – Substitutes a full line and start inserting at the beginning of a line

VI Editing Commands

~ – Changes a character's case

dd – Deletes the line

3dd – Deletes 3 lines

dw – Deletes a word (till next space)

4dw – Deletes 4 words

x – Deletes a character at the cursor

cw – Changes the word

Commands for Moving within a File

For moving within a file, you should be in the command mode. Also, arrow keys can be used to navigate. Below are the commands used to navigate within a file.

k – Moves cursor up

j – Moves cursor down

l – Moves cursor right

h – Moves cursor left

Command to cut, copy and paste/Joining lines

- yy -- copy a line
- p -- Paste after the current line
- P -- Paste before the current line
- nyy -- Copy the specified n number of lines
- J -- Join two lines
- yyp -- Repeat the current line
- ddp -- Swap two lines

Commands for Saving and Closing a File

- To exit the text editor and save the changes to a file, you need to be in the command mode(Press shift+wq). Below are the commands to use for saving and closing a file in the editor.

- Shift+zz – Saves a file and exits

- w –   Saves a file and keeps the file open

- q –   Exits without saving

- wq – Saves a file and quits