



Tutorial Link <https://course.testpad.chitkara.edu.in/tutorials/Text Editors in Linux/60dd452372f3f3f870e2c743>

## TUTORIAL

# Text Editors in Linux

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## Introduction

Text editors in Linux can be used for editing text files, writing codes, updating user instruction files, and more. A Linux system supports multiple text editors. There are two types of text editors in Linux, which are given below:

- Command-line text editors such as Vi/VIM, nano, and more.
- GUI text editors such as gedit (for Gnome) and more.

## Vi/Vim

Vim (Vi Improved) editor is one of the most used and powerful command-line based editor of the Linux system. By default, it is supported by most Linux distros. It has enhanced functionalities of the old Vi editor. It is a user-friendly editor and provides the same environment for all the Linux distros. It is also termed as programmer's editor because most programmers prefer Vi editor.

Vi editor has some special features such as Vi modes and syntax highlighting that makes it more powerful than other text editors. Generally, it has two modes:

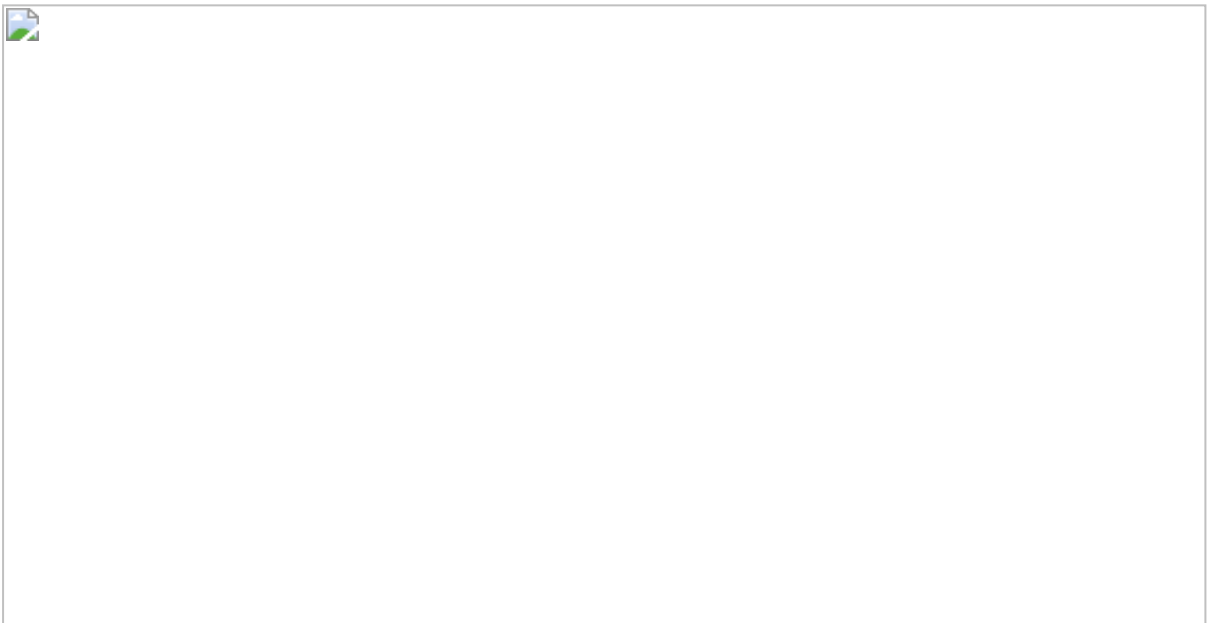
1. **Command Mode:** In command mode, administrative operations can be performed on your files such as saving a file, executing commands on the file, moving the cursor across the file, cut/yank and paste lines and words in a file. Command mode also enables the user to find and replace text in a file.
2. **Insert Mode:** In insert mode, the user can insert text in the file. Everything that the user types is considered as the data and is appended at the end of file.

To invoke the vi editor , use the following command

```
vi <filename>
```

It opens the file with name<filename> in vi editor

It looks like ,



### Moving Cursors in vi

Description	Key Used
Moving left	h
Moving right	l
Moving up	k
Moving down	j

Some common vi commands are displayed below

### Command Description

#### Editing a File

**i** Use this command to **insert** text **before** the **current cursor** location

**I** Use this command to **insert** text at the **beginning of** the line

**a** Use this command to **insert** text **after** the **current cursor** location

**o** Use this command to **create** a **new line** **for** text below the **current cursor** location

#### Deleting characters

**x** Use this command to **delete** the character **under** the **current** location

**X** Use this command to **delete** the character **before** the **current** location

**dw** Use this command to **delete from** the **current** location to the **next** word

**D** Use this command to **delete from** **current** location till **end of** the line

**dd** Use this command to **delete** the entire line

#### Copying and pasting

**yy** Use this command to **copy** the **current** line

**p** Use this command to **paste** the copied text **after** the **cursor**

**P** Use this command to **paste** the yanked(cut) text **before** the **cursor**

#### Changing text

**cc** Use this command to **remove contents of** the line

**s** Use this command to **replace** the character **with** the character you write

**r** Use this command to **replace** the character under the cursor and return to command mode

## nano

GNU nano is an easy to use command line text editor in Linux operating systems. It includes all the basic functionality expected in a regular text editor, like syntax highlighting, multiple buffers, search and replace with regular expression support, spell checking, UTF-8 encoding, and more.

Nano text editor is pre-installed on macOS and most Linux distros.

Some advanced features of a nano text editor are as following:

1. It has highly customizable key bindings
2. It supports syntax highlighting

3. It has undo and redo options
4. It provides full line display on the standard output
5. It has pager support to read from standard input

To open an existing file or to create a new file, type nano followed by the file name:

```
nano <<file_name>>
```

This opens a new editor window, where the user can start editing the file.



At the bottom of the window, there is a list of the most basic command shortcuts to use with the nano editor.

All commands are prefixed with either ^ or M character. The caret symbol (^) represents the Ctrl key. For example, the ^G commands mean to press the Ctrl and G keys at the same time. The letter M represents the Alt key.

To get a list of all the commands , type ^G command or Ctrl + G Command

Unlike vi, nano is a modeless editor, which means that the user can start typing and editing the text immediately after opening the file.

To move the cursor to a specific line and character number, use the Ctrl+\_ command. The menu on the bottom of the screen will change.

Enter the number(s) in the "Enter line number, column number:" field and hit Enter.

### **Searching and replacing**

To search for a text, press ^w ( Ctrl + w) , type in the search term, and press Enter. The cursor will move to the first match. To move to the next match, press Alt+w.

To search and replace, press Ctrl+\ . Enter the search term and the text to be replaced with. The editor will move to the first match and ask the user whether to replace it. After hitting Y or N it will move to the next match. Pressing A will replace all matches.

### **Copying, cutting, and pasting**

To select text, move the cursor to the beginning of the text and press Alt+a. This will set a selection mark. Move the cursor to the end of the text you want to select using the arrow keys. The selected text will be highlighted. To cancel the selection press Ctrl+6

Copy the selected text to the clipboard using the Alt+6 command. Ctrl+k will cut the selected text.

To cut whole lines, simply move the cursor to the line and press Ctrl+k. Cut multiple lines by hitting Ctrl+k several times.

To paste the text move the cursor to where the text is to be added and press Ctrl+u.

### **Saving and Exiting**

To save the changes to the file, press Ctrl+o. If the file doesn't already exist, it will be created once it is saved.

To exit nano press Ctrl+x. If there are unsaved changes, it is from the user asked whether to save the changes.

To save the file, the user must have the write permissions to the file.

## gedit

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Gedit editor is the default editor for the GNOME desktop environment. When a file is opened, it will open with the Gedit editor. It provides straightforward functionalities like any basic text editor. It is a lightweight editor with a straightforward user interface. It was publicly released in the year 2000 with a GNOME desktop environment. It is developed using the C programming language and supports all font families.

One of the neatest features of this program is that it supports tabs, so you can edit multiple files.

Other features of this software are:

1. syntax highlighting for various languages (C, C++, Java, Python...)
2. undo/redo
3. print preview support
4. clipboard support
5. search and replace
6. multi language spell checking
7. configurable fonts and colors
8. a flexible plugin system

To Open a file in gedit , use

```
gedit <<file_name>>
```

Gedit can be used through the GUI, and the commands are simple:

File->Open	Opens an existing file
File->New	Creates a new (blank) file
Ctrl+s	Saves a file
ctrl + c	copy
ctrl + v	paste
Ctrl+A	Select All Data
ctrl + i	Jump to line



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