

Vim Editor in Linux

1 Introduction to Text Editors in Linux

In Linux, to create or modify files, we use **text editors**.

Common editors available:

- **vi** – Basic editor (older version)
- **vim** – Vi Improved (advanced version of vi)
- **nano** – Beginner-friendly editor

👉 Just like we use **Microsoft Word in Windows**,
in Linux we use editors like **vi**, **vim**, **nano** to edit files.

Among these, **vim is the most powerful and widely used editor** (especially for system administrators and DevOps engineers).

2 What is Vim?

Vim (Vi Improved) is a powerful command-line text editor used to:

- Create new files
- Edit existing files
- Write shell scripts
- Modify configuration files
- Edit application code

- View and analyze logs
-

3 Opening Files in Vim

- ◆ Open Existing File

```
vim file.txt
```

If a file exists → It opens the file.

- ◆ Create New File

```
vim newfile.txt
```

If a file does not exist → Vim creates a new file when saved.

4 Modes in Vim (Very Important)

Vim works in different modes. Understanding modes is very important.

- ◆ 1. Normal Mode (Default Mode)

- When you open vim, it starts in Normal Mode.
- Used for navigation and commands.
- You cannot directly type text here.

To return to Normal Mode anytime:

Press ESC

◆ **2. Insert Mode**

- Used for typing and editing text.
- Entered from Normal Mode.

Enter Insert Mode Using:

Key	Action
i	Insert at cursor position
I	Insert at beginning of line
a	Insert after cursor
A	Append at end of line
o	Open new line below
O	Open new line above

To exit Insert Mode → Press **ESC**

◆ **3. Command Mode (Last Line Mode)**

- Used for saving, quitting, searching, and settings.
- Start command with :

Example:

```
:w  
:q  
:wq
```

5 Basic Editing Operations

◆ Character Level Operations

Command	Meaning
x	Delete single character
r	Replace single character
u	Undo last action
Ctrl + r	Redo

◆ Line Level Operations

Command	Meaning
dd	Delete (cut) one line
2dd	Delete 2 lines
ndd	Delete n lines
yy	Copy (yank) one line
nyy	Copy n lines
p	Paste below cursor
P	Paste above cursor

Example:

5dd → Deletes 5 lines
3yy → Copies 3 lines

6 Navigation in Vim

◆ Basic Cursor Movement

Key Movement

h Left

l Right

k Up

j Down

◆ Word Navigation

Command Meaning

w Move to next word

b Move to previous word

e Move to end of word

◆ File Navigation

Command Meaning

gg Go to beginning of file

G Go to end of file

10G Go to line number 10

7 Searching in Vim

To search for a word:

/word

Press:

n

→ Next occurrence

Press:

N

→ Previous occurrence

8 Delete & Copy Blocks

Command	Meaning
d + }	Delete paragraph downward
d + {	Delete paragraph upward
y + }	Copy paragraph downward
y + {	Copy paragraph upward

9 Line Numbers

Show line numbers:

:se nu

Hide line numbers:

:se nonu

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Save and Exit Commands

Always press **ESC** first.

Command	Meaning
:w	Save file
:q	Quit
:wq	Save and quit
:q!	Quit without saving
:w filename	Save with new name

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Replace Text in Vim

Replace first occurrence in line:

```
:s/old/new
```

Replace all occurrences in file:

```
:%s/old/new/g
```

Replace with confirmation:

```
:%s/old/new/gc
```

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Visual Mode (Selection Mode)

Used to select text visually.

Command	Meaning
v	Select character-wise
V	Select line-wise
Ctrl + v	Block selection

After selecting:

- Press **d** → Delete
 - Press **y** → Copy
-

13 Vim Tutor (Practice Tool)

Linux provides a built-in learning tool:

```
vimtutor
```

It opens interactive guided practice.

To exit:

```
:q!
```

14 Common Mistakes by Beginners

- ✗ Trying to type without entering Insert Mode
- ✗ Forgetting to press ESC before saving
- ✗ Confusing :q and :q!
- ✗ Panic when stuck (just press ESC)

