

21-June-2024

Training Day - 4 Report:

Learning Vi and Vim Editors: Basic Commands and Navigation

Concept

Today's focus was on mastering the **Vi and Vim text editors**, essential tools for text editing and programming in Unix-like systems, with an emphasis on navigation, editing, and saving files.

Key Highlights

1. **Vi vs. Vim:** Explored the evolution of Vim from Vi and its advantages, including improved usability and customization options.
2. **Basic Commands:** Practiced opening files, navigating using commands (h, j, k, l), editing text (i, a, o), saving, quitting (:w, :q, :wq), and performing search-and-replace tasks (/search_term, :s/search_term/replacement/g).
3. **Challenges:** Initially struggled with switching between modes but appreciated Vim's efficiency and customization potential once familiar.

Common Options and Features of the Vi Editor:

Vi is a powerful text editor in Unix-like environments. Below are its common options and features for various tasks:

Modes in Vi

1. **Normal Mode:** Default mode for navigation and command execution.
2. **Insert Mode:** Used for text insertion.
3. **Command Mode:** Accessed by pressing : in Normal mode for saving, quitting, and other commands.

File Operations

- vi filename: Open a file for editing.
- :w: Save changes to the file.
- :q: Quit if no changes were made.
- :wq or ZZ: Save changes and quit.
- :q!: Quit without saving changes.

Navigation

- h: Move left.

- l: Move right.
- j: Move down.
- k: Move up.
- 0: Move to the beginning of the current line.
- ^: Move to the first non-blank character of the current line.
- \$: Move to the end of the current line.
- G: Move to the last line of the file.
- gg: Move to the first line of the file.
- Ctrl-d: Scroll half a page down.
- Ctrl-u: Scroll half a page up.

Editing Options

- i: Insert before the cursor.
- a: Append after the cursor.
- o: Open a new line below the current line.
- O: Open a new line above the current line.
- x: Delete the character under the cursor.
- dd: Delete the current line.
- yy: Yank (copy) the current line.
- p: Paste after the cursor.
- u: Undo the last action.
- Ctrl-r: Redo the last undone action.

Search and Replace

- /pattern: Search forward for "pattern."
- ?pattern: Search backward for "pattern."
- n: Repeat the last search in the same direction.
- N: Repeat the last search in the opposite direction.
- :s/old/new/: Replace the first occurrence of "old" with "new" on the current line.
- :s/old/new/g: Replace all occurrences of "old" with "new" on the current line.
- :%s/old/new/g: Replace all occurrences of "old" with "new" in the entire file.

Exiting Vi

- :wq: Save and quit.
- :x: Save and quit.
- ZZ: Save and quit.
- :q!: Quit without saving changes.

These options form the basis of using Vi effectively. With practice, you can unlock its full potential for text editing and programming tasks.