

Linux Operating System and Application vi editor

Introduction to the Vi Editor




What is Vi?

- Vi (pronounced “vee-eye”) is the default text editor in many UNIX systems.
- Introduced in 1976, it remains widely used today.
- A powerful and efficient command-line editor.
- Favored by system administrators for its speed and reliability.

Common Use Cases

- Editing configuration files.
- Writing scripts and notes.
- Editing source code.
- Creating simple text documents.

Vi vs. Vim

- Vi is the original editor; Vim (“Vi IMproved”) is a more feature-rich version.
 - On many systems, **vi** actually runs **vim**.
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Getting Started with Vi



Opening a File

- `vi <filename>` — Open or create a file.

Useful Options

- `vi +n <file>` — Start at line *n*.
 - `vi +/<pattern> <file>` — Jump to first match of *pattern*.
 - `vi + <file>` — Start at the last line.
 - `vi -r <file>` — Recover a file after crash.
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Understanding Vi Modes

Two Main Modes

- **Command Mode:** Navigate and manipulate text (default on open).
- **Insert Mode:** Enter and modify text.

Switching Modes

- Command → Insert: **i**, **a**, **o**, **A**, **O**
- Insert → Command: Press **Esc**.

Navigating in Command Mode




Character & Line Navigation

- `h`, `j`, `k`, `l`: Left, down, up, right.

Word & Line Navigation

- `w`, `b`, `e`: Next, previous, and end of word.
- `0`, `$`: Start and end of line.

Screen Navigation

- `G`, `gg`, `nG`: Go to last, first, or line *n*.
 - `Ctrl-F/B`: Forward/back one screen.
 - `Ctrl-D/U`: Half screen scroll.
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Editing Text



- **Insert Text**
 - `i, a, o, A, O`: Enter Insert mode at various points.
- **Delete Text**
 - `x, dd, dw, D`: Delete character, line, word, to end of line.
- **Change Text**
 - `r, R`: Replace one or multiple characters.
 - `cw, cc, cNw`: Change word/line/N words.
- **Undo**
 - `u`: Undo last action (toggle behavior in Vi).

Copying and Pasting

Copy (Yank)

- `yy`: Copy current line.
- `Nyy`: Copy *N* lines.
- `yM`: Copy a motion (e.g., `y3w` for 3 words).

Paste

- `p`: Paste after cursor.
- `P`: Paste before cursor.

Saving and Quitting




Save

- `:w` — Save file.
- `:w <filename>` — Save as new file.

Quit

- `:q` — Quit (if no changes).
- `:q!` — Force quit without saving.

Save & Quit

- `:wq` or `ZZ` — Save and quit.
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Other Useful Commands



Searching

- `/text` — Search forward.
- `?text` — Search backward.
- `n`, `N` — Next/previous match.

Line Numbers

- `:set number` / `:set nonumber`
- `:.=` — Show current line number.
- `:=` — Show total line count.
- `Ctrl-G` — Show file and line info.

Joining Lines

- `J`: Join current line with next.
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Tips & Best Practices

- **Case Sensitivity**
 - Vi commands and searches are case-sensitive.
- **Mouse Usage**
 - Mouse does not move the cursor—use keyboard commands.
- **Back Up Before Editing**
 - Always copy critical files before using Vi.
- **Practice Makes Perfect**
 - Try commands on a sample file to build muscle memory.

Q&A