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Change default Linux / UNIX text editor from VI to Pico

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Q. I find vi hard to use. How do I change my default text editor from vim / vi to Pico under Debian Linux?

A. To use and change an editor to edit your text message, set the variable EDITOR to the pathname of the vi / vim binary file. You need to use export or set command for the same purpose.



[1]

Many Linux / UNIX command read shell **EDITOR environment variable** to determine which editor to use for editing a text file.

Set default text editor to pico

Type the command as follows:

```
$ which pico
```

Output:

```
/usr/bin/pico
```

Now setup a new text editor:

```
export EDITOR=/usr/bin/pico
```

OR

```
export EDITOR=pico
```

Add above line to ~/.bashrc file:

```
$ vi ~/.bashrc
```

Append text as follows:

```
export EDITOR=pico
```

Close and save the file. There is no need to reboot system.

Also you can add alias if you want:

```
alias vi=/usr/bin/pico
```

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