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How to: Create Files in Linux from a Bash Shell Prompt

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Q. I'm new to Linux and installed CentOS on my Laptop. How do I create a file from bash prompt without using GUI tools?

A. Linux / UNIX offer many command line tools and text editors for creating text files. You can use vi or JOE text editor. It is a terminal-based text editor for Linux/Unix systems, available under the GPL. It is designed to be easy to use.

[1]

Create a Text File using cat command

To create a text file called foo.txt, enter:

```
$ cat > foo.txt
```

Output:

```
This is a test.
Hello world!
press CTRL+D to save file
```

To display file contents, type

```
$ cat foot.txt
```

Create a Text File using joe text editor

JOE is text editor. To create a file called foo.txt, type:

```
$ joe -help foo.txt
```

You will see help menu on screen. Next type something. To save the file and leave joe, by typing ^KX (press CTRL+K+X).

Create a Text File using vi / vim text editor

vi / vim is another text editor. To create a file called bar.txt, type:

```
$ vi bar.txt
```

Press 'i' to insert new text. To save the file and leave vi, type ESC+:+x (press ESC key, type : followed by x and [enter] key).

Further readings

- Learn more about joe here [2] : Introduction to the Joe Text Editor
- Learn more about vi here [3] : Download mastering the VI editor pdf version.

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[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/**
[2] joe here: **http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/~matloff/Joe/Notes_Joe.NM.html**
[3] vi here: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-unix-vi-vim-text-editor-howto.html**