Day 9-VI Editor Basics

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`vi` is one of the most commonly used text editors in Linux. It is lightweight, terminal-based, and available by default on nearly all Unix-like systems. Most modern systems use `vim` (Vi IMproved), and `vi` is usually a symbolic link to it.

To open a file with `vi`:

```
vi <filename>
```

vi Operation Modes 🔗

`vi` operates in **three main modes**:

- **Command Mode** (default when you open a file)
  - Use for navigation, deleting, copying, pasting, and switching modes.
  - Most keys are interpreted as commands.
- **Insert Mode**
  - Used for writing and editing text.
  - Enter by pressing:
    - `i` → insert before the cursor
    - `I` → insert at beginning of line
    - `a` → append after the cursor
    - `A` → append at end of line
    - `o` → open new line below
    - `0` → open new line above
- **Last Line Mode** (a.k.a. Ex mode)
  - Accessed by pressing `:` in command mode.
  - Used for saving, quitting, and other commands.

Editing and Navigating 🔗

- **Copy a line run**:
  - `yy`
- **Paste below cursor using**:
  - `p`
- **Delete a character using the below option**:
  - `x`
- **Delete N lines using command**:
  - `3dd  or  d3d where N=3`
- **Undo a change press**:
  - `u`

Searching 🔗

- **Search for a pattern (downward)**:
  - `/pattern`
- **Search for a pattern (upward)**:

- `?pattern`
- **Next match (same direction)**:
  - `n`
- **Previous match (opposite direction)**:
  - `N`

Saving and Exiting 🔗

From **last line mode** press : and one of the below options:

```
:w        # Save the file
:q        # Quit if no changes made
:wq       # Save and quit
:wq!      # Save and quit, force even with warnings
:q!       # Quit without saving
ZZ        # Save and quit from command mode (uppercase ZZ)
```

Checking Default Editor 🔗

To see which editor is set as default run:

```
update-alternatives --display editor
```