Publishers of technology books, eBooks, and videos for creative people

Home > Articles

Creating and Editing Files in Unix and Linux

By Eric J. Ray and Deborah S. Ray

Aug 4, 2014

📑 Contents   🖶 Print   ➕ Share This

< Back   **Page 10** of 13   Next >

Related Resources

| Store | Articles | Blogs |

Unix and Linux: Learn by Video
By Ron Hipschman
DVD $103.99

Unix and Linux: Learn by Video
By Ron Hipschman, Deborah S. Ray
Online Video $103.99

Unix and Linux: Visual QuickStart Guide, 4th Edition
By Deborah S. Ray
eBook (Adobe DRM) $22.39

See All Related Store Items

This chapter is from the book

Unix and Linux: Visual QuickStart Guide, 5th Edition

Learn More   🛒 Buy

Adding and Deleting Text in `vi`

Adding and deleting text in **vi** is a bit more complicated than doing the same in **nano**. In **nano**, you basically just place your cursor where you want to make changes, whereas **vi** has a whole slew of commands that you use to specify where the changes should occur. (**Tables 4.1**, **4.2**, and **4.3** list only a very few of your options.) Plus, to issue the commands, you have to switch to normal mode.
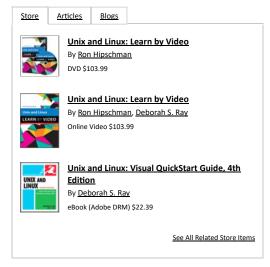
TABLE 4.1 `vi` Commands to Add Text

Command	Function
a	Adds text after the cursor
A	Adds text at the end of the current line
i	Inserts text before the cursor
I	Inserts text at the beginning of the current line
o	Inserts a blank line after the current line
O	Inserts a blank line before the current line

TABLE 4.2 `vi` Commands to Delete Text

Command	Function
x	Deletes one character (under the cursor)
X	Deletes one character (behind the cursor)
dd	Deletes the current line
5dd	Deletes five lines starting with the current line (any number would work here)
dw	Deletes the current word
cw	Changes the current word (deletes it and enters input mode)
r	Replaces the character under the cursor with the next character you type
R	Replaces the existing text with the text you type (like overtype mode in most word processors)

This chapter is from the book

Unix and Linux: Visual QuickStart Guide, 5th Edition

Learn More   🛒 Buy

TABLE 4.3 Other Handy `vi` Editing Commands

Command	Function
yy	Copies the current line
p	Pastes any copied text after the cursor or line
J	Joins the current and following lines
u	Undoes the last change
U	Undoes all changes on the current line
.	Repeats the last command

To add or delete text in `vi`:

1. **`vi`**

   To begin, type `vi` at the shell prompt.

2. **`i`**

   Change into insert mode.

3. **`There once was a man from Nantucket`**

   Type some text that you'll want to add to.

4. Esc

   Press Esc to enter normal mode before you issue the commands.

5. Choose a command, based on what you want to do to the text.

   - Table 4.1 lists commands to add text.
   - Table 4.2 lists commands to delete text.
   - Table 4.3 lists miscellaneous editing commands.

6. **`dd`**

   Type the command. Here, we're deleting the current line of text.

+ Share This   🔖 Save To Your Account   < Back   **Page 10** of 13   Next >

This chapter is from the book

Unix and Linux: Visual QuickStart Guide, 5th Edition

Learn More   🛒 Buy