

# The vi/vim Editor

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The vi/vim editor is the unix vi editor with extensions and is available on all machines running unix. Vi does not require many resources and hence can be used for editing over slow networks. One can use "vi" or "vim". The vi editor has three modes:

1. **command mode:** letters or sequence of letters interactively command vi. Commands are case sensitive. The ESC key can end a command.
2. **insert mode:** allows one to enter text.
3. **command line mode:** One enters this mode by typing ":" [return]" Puts the command line entry at the foot of the screen.

**Commands – bold** means that I frequently use the command

**ESC** - ends insert mode and returns you to command mode.

**ESC : wq** - means to write and quit the vi session.

**ESC :w** - writes the file.

**ESC : q!** - means to quit the vi session without writing.

**ESC : /keyword** - for keyword searches with "n" meaning "next" and "u" meaning the next keyword above where you are.

**i** - insert

**a** - insert after the position your cursor is in

**A** - insert at end of line where your cursor is.

**o** - open new line after current line where the cursor is

**O** - Open line above current line where the cursor is - move curser with up/down/left/right keys

**10+** moves curser up 10 lines

**10-** moves curser down 10 lines

**M** - moves curser to the middle of the page

**L** - moves curser to the bottom of the page

**H** - moves curser to the top of the page

**\$** - moves curser to the end of the line

**G** - moves curser to the end of the file

**3G** - moves curser to line 3

**u** - undo last change

**U** - undo all changes to the entire line

**dd** - deletes current line

**3dd** - deletes 3 lines

**dw** - deletes word

**7dw** - deletes 7 words

**d)** - deletes until the end of the sentence.

**d\$** - deletes all characters from the curser to the end of the line.

**D** - deletes contents of the line after the cursor.

**C** - deletes contents of the line after the curser and puts one into the insert mode

**x** - deletes character where the curser is.

**r** - replaces character where curser is.

**R** - overwrites from where the curser is positioned onward.

## **USEFUL COMMAND LINE ARGUMENTS**

**vi tmp** - takes curser to the first line of the file tmp. On the student cluster, it remembers where you last made changes and takes the cursor there

**vi +10 tmp** - takes cursor to line 10 of tmp. There is no "vi -10 tmp"

**vi +/x = tmp** - takes curser to first line with "x =" in tmp.

**vi -h** - brings up vi help

**References:** [yolinux.com/TUTORIALS/LinuxTutorialAdvanced\\_vi.html](http://yolinux.com/TUTORIALS/LinuxTutorialAdvanced_vi.html) and <http://jerrywang.net/vi/>