**VI EDITOR** **Name: Satyaprakash Rath**

There are many ways to edit files in Linux operating System. Either use **GUI or Terminal**.

Those who like to go with terminal then there is **VI EDITOR** which is most popular and classic text editor in Linux family.

**Why Vi Editor?**

* It is available in almost all Linux Distribution
* It works the same across different platforms and distributions.
* It is user friendly.

Now a days many fast versions of Vi Editors are available. And most popular version among them is Vim. (Vi Improved)

Some others are elvis, nvi, nano and vile.

It is wise to learn vi because it is **Feature Rich** and it offers **Endless Possibilities** to edit the file.

In order to work on Vi Editor, we need to understand its operations moments.

They can be divided into 2 parts.

1. Command Mode:

* Vi Editor opens in this mode and it only **understands commands**.
* In this mode we can move the cursor and **cut, copy, paste and delete the text.**
* This mode also Saves the changes you made to the file.
* Commands are **case sensitive**.

1. Insert Mode:

* This mode is for **inserting text** in the file.
* You can **switch to the insert mode** from the command mode by pressing ‘i’ on the keyboard.
* Once you are in the Insert mode, any key would be taken as an input for the file on which you are currently working.
* Press Esc key to save changes and return to the command mode.

**\*Note: Vi Editor doesn’t display any change on the screen when you jump from the command mode to insert mode or vice versa.**

**Starting Vi Editor**

To Starting the Vi Editor, you need to open the terminal and type

vi <NEWfilename> or vi <EXISTINGfilename>

You can create a new file or edit an existing file.

After type vi file1.txt, It will open in command mode.

Then you can see some ~ lines on left. They denote unused lines.

The file name you have created shows in the bottom.

In order to add content to this file we need to press “i” key from the key board. Only then we are able to type something.

**Moving within a File**

You need to be in **command mode** in order to navigate in a file.

Keystrokes Use

k Move cursor up

j Move cursor down

h Move cursor left

l Move cursor right

If **insert mode** allows, we can use arrow from our keyboard.

**Saving or Closing the File**

You need to be in command mode in order to saving or closing a file.

Keystrokes Use

shift+zz / :wq Save the file and quit

:w Save the file but keep it open

:q Quit without saving (**It will warn you about**  **unsaved changes and will not let you exit**)

:q! Quit without saving (I**t will not warn you, simply**  **quit**)

Keystrokes Action

i Insert at cursor (**goes into insert mode**)

a Write after cursor (**goes into insert mode**)

A Write at the end of line (**goes into insert mode**)

Esc Terminate insert mode

u Undo last change

U Undo all changes to the entire line

o Open a new line (**goes into insert mode**)

dd Delete line/move Line

3dd Delete 3 lines/move 3 lines

p paste the lines

yy copy a line

3yy copy 3 lines

%s/pattern/replace search a word and replace

D Delete contents of line after the cursor

C Delete contents of line after the cursor and insert new text

dw Delete word

4dw Delete 4 word

cw Change word

x Delete character at cursor

r Replace Character

R Overwrite characters from cursor onward

s Substitute one character under cursor continue to insert

S Substitute entire line and begin to insert at

beginning of the line

~ Change case of individual character