

GNU nano text editor

It is a popular text editor among Linux users.

Opening and Creating Files

To open an existing file or to create a new file, type `nano` followed by the file name:

```
nano filename
```

This opens a new editor window, and you can start editing the file.

- At the bottom of the window, there is a list of the most basic command shortcuts to use with the nano editor.

All commands are prefixed with either `^` or `M` character. The caret symbol (`^`) represents the `Ctrl` key. For example, the `^J` commands mean to press the `Ctrl` and `J` keys at the same time. The letter `M` represents the `Alt` key.

You can get a list of all commands by typing `Ctrl+g`

- If you want to open a file with the cursor on a specific line and character use the following syntax:

```
nano +line_number,character_number filename
```

If you omit the `character_number` the cursor will be positioned on the first character.

For example to open the 3rd line 5th character in file named `foo`:

```
nano +3,5 foo
```

- To move the cursor to a specific line and character number, use the `Ctrl+_` command. (i.e, `Ctrl+ underscore`.) The menu on the bottom of the screen will change. Enter the number(s) in the “Enter line number, column number:” field and hit `Enter`.

Searching and replacing

To search for a text, press `Ctrl+w`, type in the search term, and press `Enter`. The cursor will move to the first match. To move to the next match, press `Alt+w`.

If you want to search and replace, press `Ctrl+\`. Enter the search term and the text to be replaced with. The editor will move to the first match and ask you whether to replace it. After hitting `y` or `N` it will move to the next match. Pressing `A` will replace all matches.

Copying, cutting, and pasting

To select text, move the cursor to the beginning of the text and press `Alt+a`. This will set a selection mark. Move the cursor to the end of the text you want to select using the arrow keys. The selected text will be highlighted. If you want to cancel the selection press `Alt+6`

Copy the selected text to the clipboard using the `Alt+6` command. `Ctrl+k` will cut the selected text.

If you want to cut whole lines, simply move the cursor to the line and press `Ctrl+k`. You can cut multiple lines by hitting `Ctrl+k` several times.

To paste the text move the cursor to where you want to put the text and press `Ctrl+u`

Saving and Exiting

To save the changes you've made to the file, press `Ctrl+o`. If the file doesn't already exist, it will be created once you save it.

To exit nano press `Ctrl+x`. If there are unsaved changes, you'll be asked whether you want to save the changes.

For more information about Gnu Nano visit the official [nano documentation](#) page.

Reference:

<https://linuxize.com/post/how-to-use-nano-text-editor/>