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How to save and exit “nano .bash_profile” in Terminal?

Asked 8 years, 7 months ago Active 1 year, 1 month ago Viewed 364k times



I need to add some line to nano .bash_profile in Terminal. Then:

39

1) I enter with this command line: nano .bash_profile



2) Add the line I need



16

3) now I don't know how to Save and Exit



I thought it is :w + enter. If this is correct I need some direction to use it.

macos

terminal

command-line

text-editor

edited Nov 2 '19 at 11:29



anki

8,984

6

21

45

asked May 30 '12 at 18:25



chefnelone

683

4

11

20

I'm using control+O to save..but it keep asking 'File Name to Write: .bash_profile So how to make sure the 'edited' .bash_profile file is saved? – user23922 Jun 13 '12 at 4:45

1 Just press 'Enter' then – nobillside ♦ Jun 13 '12 at 5:27

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No, `:w` is a `/usr/bin/vi` command. Use the combination `control` + `x` to exit. You will be prompted to save the file if you have made unsaved changes.

Nano is intended to be a bit friendlier / simpler to new users than vi/vim or emacs which both cater to more power users that have spent time learning how to use them effectively.

To get started in nano - look for commands along the bottom of the window when nano is open. (`^` stands for the `control` key)

<code>^X</code>	(F2)	Close the current file buffer / Exit from nano
<code>^O</code>	(F3)	Write the current file to disk

edited Jul 3 '12 at 21:22



bmike ♦

199k 57 346 745

answered May 30 '12 at 18:43



Mark

684 6 2

Keep in mind the `shift` key is needed for `^X` and `^O`, tripped me up at first when we're used to being given commands in uppercase and the shift key explicitly stated as a shortcut in OSX. — [Shwaydogg](#) Apr 13 '15 at 20:30

what is `^` sign? Pressing Shift + 6 and then X to create `^X` seems not working! Got it, it seems `^` sign means Ctrl in linux world! — [Rika](#) Oct 28 '16 at 15:27

`ctrl + ^ + O` will do the trick for you. — [paranza](#) Dec 10 '16 at 18:18

3 [@paranza](#) `ctrl` and `^` is the same thing. — [grg](#) ♦ Jun 5 '17 at 11:04



7



Per [Apple's Support Article](#):

6. To save the file, press Control-O.

7. At the filename prompt, press Enter.

8. To exit, press Control-X.

answered May 1 '19 at 18:13



Steve Moser

8,084 23 76 119

Best answer. to the point — [Shady Mohamed Sherif](#) Feb 9 at 14:22

4 in case you don't, or Y in case you do. It will then ask you for a filename. Just type it in and press Enter.



If you accidentally confirmed that you want to save the file but you actually don't, you can always cancel by pressing `Control` + `C` when you're prompted for a filename.

edited Oct 6 '14 at 5:25



Jash Jacob

4,063 8 30 59

answered Oct 6 '14 at 0:44



Krishna reddy

41 1

2

I just have the same question. after a lot of trail and error i learned that Nano is asking you to write the name of the "new conf file". Since you do not want a new file just hit enter indicating to nano that you want to keep the same name.



Basically you change the conf file, pres Ctrl + x and finally hit Enter (to indicate the same name). Good luck



answered Aug 18 '18 at 4:42



Felipe

21 1

1

1. Enter `nano .bash_profile` (It will open the `.bash_profile` file in the nano editor)
2. After making changes to the file use `Control` + `X` (to "exit")
3. Then it asks for the changes to be made permanently and gives two options: Yes (or) No
4. Press `Y` and press `Enter` to save the file



edited Jun 5 '17 at 11:18



Allan

72.9k 18 117 266

answered Jun 5 '17 at 10:50



Bharath Kumar

11 1

-1

Hey I got something for you guys just enter ctrl + x and when it says to save press 'Y' if you want to save Then just press enter button Hope it works :)



answered Nov 28 '18 at 11:33



user312104

1

How does this differ from the other four answers already describing the same solution? – nohillside ♦ Nov 28 '18 at 12:36



...y

-6

`sudo nano .bash_profile`

To open your file instead. This will create your file if it doesn't exist, or open it for editing.

answered Aug 18 '16 at 21:49



[PerpetualLearner](#)

1 1

- 4 This is not the right place to use `sudo` -- that runs `nano` as root. It doesn't even really answer the question which is how do you save changes and exit nano. He already knows how to start nano. – [Ian C.](#) ♦ Aug 18 '16 at 22:14

I know that it runs it as root. I had the same problem and doing the above fixed my problem. The accepted answer or an hour of research didn't. So unless the OP says this doesn't answer his question, I would disagree that it doesn't. – [PerpetualLearner](#) Aug 18 '16 at 22:33 ✎



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