

## Chapter 1 : Basics of Vi editor

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### 1. Starting vi

Open a file with vi. Type: **vi myfile.txt**

### 2. vi Modes

#### Command Mode

- Command mode is the mode you are in when you start (default mode)
- Command mode is the mode in which commands are given to move around in the file, to make changes, and to leave the file
- Commands are case sensitive: j not the same as J

#### Insert (or Text) Mode

- The mode in which text is created.
- There is more than one way to get into insert mode but only one way to leave: return to command mode by pressing <Esc>

### 3. Setting Basic Options in vi

#### Displaying Line Numbers

*From Command Mode*

**:set nu**     *Display line numbers*

**:set nonu**   *Hide line numbers*

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### 4. Basic commands

To repeat and undo:

Commands	Action
u	Undo the last command
.	Repeat the last command

Command to cut, copy and paste:

Commands	Action
dd	Delete a line
yy	(yank yank) copy a line
p	Paste after the current line
P	Paste before the current line

Command to cut, copy and paste in blocks:

Commands	Action
<n>dd	Delete the specified n number of lines
<n>yy	Copy the specified n number of lines

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Search a string:

Commands	Action
/string	Forward search for given string
?string	Backward search for given string

To move to the start or end of the file:

- **:1** - Moves the cursor to the start of the page.
- **:\$** - Moves the cursor to the end of the page.

## 5. Exiting vi

- To exit you must be in command mode-press **<Esc>** if you are not in command mode
- exit vi by typing: **:x**

*From Command Mode*

**zz**      *Write/save then quit*

**:wq**      *Write/save then quit*

**:x**      *Write/save then quit*

**:q!**      *Quit without saving changes to file*

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### 6. Basics Summary

#### A Basic vi Session

- To enter vi, type: **vi** *filename* <Return>
- To enter insert mode, type: **i**
- Type in the text: **This is easy.**
- To leave insert mode and return to command mode, press: <Esc>
- In command mode, save changes and exit vi by typing: **:x**

You are back at the Unix prompt.