

Linux Fundamentals

Lesson 5 vim: An Advanced Text Editor

Lesson Objectives



In this lesson, you will learn:

- Introduction to Vim
- Modes of Vim
- Opening and Editing files in Vim



Introducing vim

- Newer version of vi, the standard Unix text editor.
- Executing vi runs vim by default.
 - gvim: Graphical version of vim.
- Applications + Programming -> Vi iMproved
- Provided by vim-X11 package.
- Advantages:
 - Speed: Do more with fewer keystrokes.
 - Simplicity: No dependence on mouse/GUI.
 - Availability: Included with most Unix-like Operating systems.



vim: A Modal Editor

Keystroke behavior is dependent upon vim's "mode".

Three main modes:

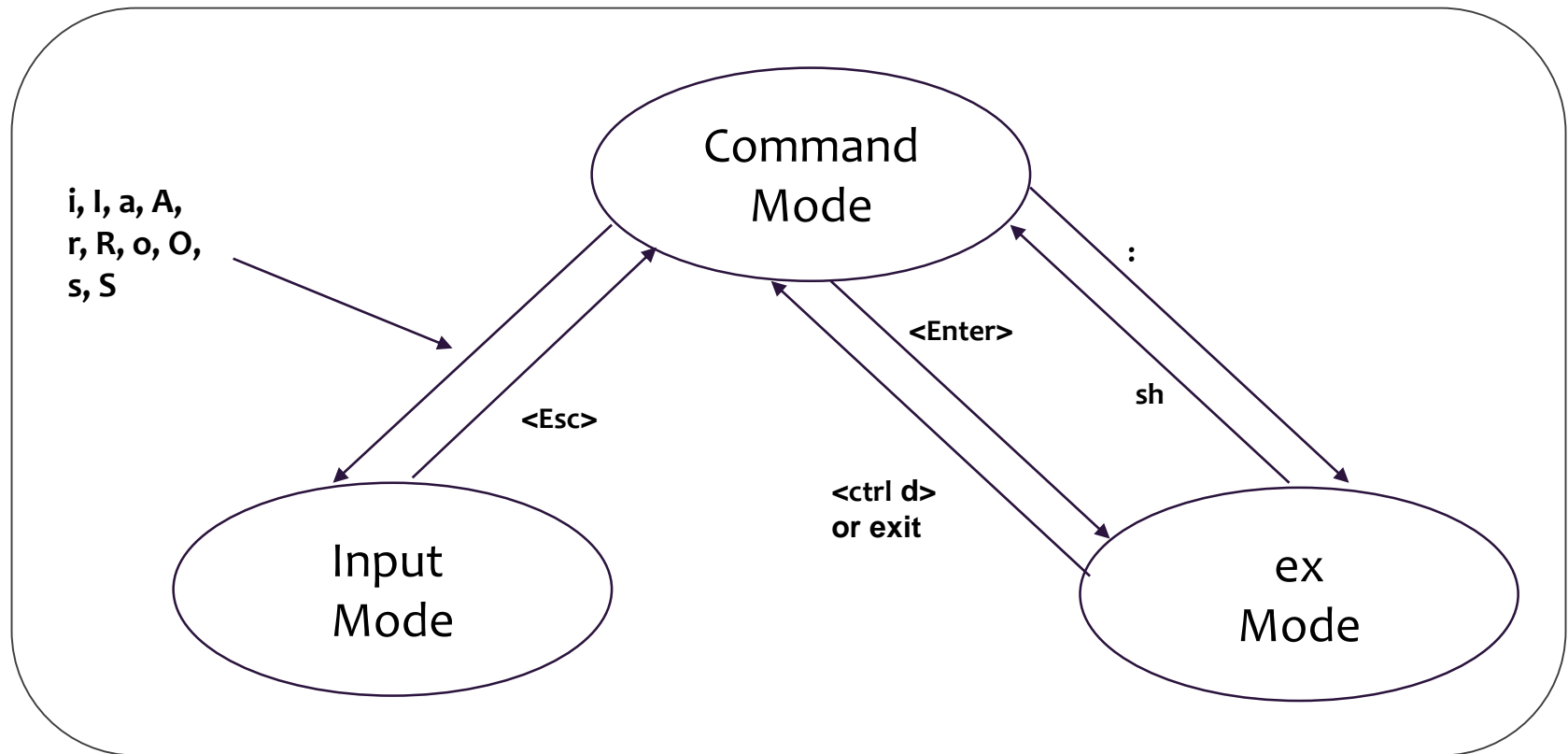
- Command Mode (default): Move cursor, cut/paste text, change mode.
- Insert Mode: Modify text.
- Ex Mode: Save, quit, etc.

Esc exits current mode.



Modes of Vim

- Three Modes of Vi Editor are:





vim Basics

To use vim, you must at least be able to

- Open a file.

- Modify a file (insert mode).

- Save a file (ex mode).



Opening a file in vim

To start vi:

`$vim filename.`

If the file exists, the file is opened and the contents are displayed.

If the file does not exist, vi creates it when the edits are saved for the first time.



Modifying a File

Insert Mode:

When file is opened, press i to input text.

Many other options exist

A - append to end of line

I - insert at beginning of line

o - insert new a line (below)

O - insert new line (above)



Saving a File and Exiting vim

Ex Mode:

- Enter into Ex Mode with `:`.

Creates a command prompt at bottom-left of screen.

Common write/quit commands:

- `:w` - writes (saves) the file to disk.
- `:wq` - writes and quits.
- `:q!` - quits, even if changes are lost.



Manipulating Text Command Mode

	Change (replace)	Delete (cut)	Yank (copy)
Line	cc	dd	yy
Letter	cl	dl	yl
Word	cw	dw	yw

Summary



In this lesson you have learnt

- Introduction to Vim
- Modes of Vim
- Opening and Editing files in Vim

Review Questions



Question 1: What command is used to copy the lines in vi editor?

Question 2: _____ is used to move from command mode to execute mode.