

CHAPTER 6, LAB 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE vim EDITOR (20 MINUTES)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

In this lab you will learn to use some basic commands of the vim editor.

READING

Read “Tutorial: Using vim to Create and Edit a File” on Sobell, pages 161–168.

PROCEDURE

Each Linux distribution includes several text editors. The default graphical editor with the GNOME desktop is `gedit` and with KDE is `kedit`. Both are similar in features to Notepad or WordPad. If the graphical environment is not available, you can use `nano`, a simple editor that is similar to `DOSEdit`. Advanced editing, including cut and paste, search and replace, and applying filters in the text environment, can be performed using `vim` or `emacs`.

The vim editor is large and powerful; you can keep learning things about vim for years. “Chapter 3, Lab 1: Introducing a Few Utilities” on page 8 of this manual introduced vim. This lab builds on that introduction, showing you how to edit a file.

1. Start vim (step 1 on page 8 of this manual and Sobell, page 161) to create a new file named **pizza**.
2. Type `i` (lowercase `i` for *input*; Sobell, pages 164 and 167) to put vim in Input mode (Sobell, page 163) and enter the following text, pressing RETURN at the end of each line. Ignore typing mistakes you make for now. Press ESCAPE when you are done typing to put vim back in Command mode (Sobell, page 163).

```
Pizza is an oven-baked, flat, round bread
typically topped with a tomato sauce, cheese
and various toppings. Pizza was originally
invented in Naples, Italy, and the dish has
since become popular in many parts of the world.
(from Wikipedia)
```

3. Use the ARROW keys to move the cursor so that it is over the **o** in **originally**. Press the `x` (delete character; Sobell, page 166) key ten times to delete each of the letters in **originally**. The editor remains in Command mode throughout this step.
4. Search for the word **Italy** by first pressing the `/` (forward slash; Sobell, page 184) key. Pressing this key puts vim in Last Line mode (Sobell, page 164); the cursor moves to the bottom line of the screen. Now type **Italy** and press RETURN to search for the word **Italy**. Delete the word **Italy** by giving

the command **dw** (delete word; Sobell, page 166). The comma and the following SPACE remain. You could remove them using the **x** command, but this step introduces a different command.

Before you can try removing **Italy** another way, you must restore the word you just deleted. Type **u** (undo; Sobell, page 167) to undo the last command you gave; **Italy** reappears. Whereas **dw** deletes a word but not adjacent punctuation, **dW** deletes the word including adjacent punctuation. Give the command **dW**.

5. The **?** (question mark; Sobell, page 184) searches backward for a string of characters the same way the **/** searches forward. Search backward for the word **topped** by typing **?topped** followed by RETURN. The cursor is now on the **t** in **topped**.
6. The **cw** (change word; Sobell, page 181) command removes a word and puts vim in Input mode so you can type a word to replace the original one. You must press ESCAPE to return vim to Command mode when you are finished typing the new word. With the cursor on the first letter of **topped**, give a **cw** command and type the word **covered** followed by an ESCAPE.
7. The **o** (open; Sobell, page 167) command opens a blank line below the line the cursor is on, moves the cursor to the new line, and puts vim in Input mode. The **O** command works the same way except it opens a line above the one the cursor is on. With vim in Input mode and the cursor on a blank line, you can enter as many lines of text as you like. When you are done, press ESCAPE to return vim to Command mode.

Give an **H** (home; Sobell, page 177) command to move the cursor to the first letter of the document you are editing. Give an **O** (uppercase “oh”) command to open a line above the document and type the title **PIZZA** followed by a RETURN and an ESCAPE.

8. Save your work and exit from vim by giving the command **ZZ** (Sobell, page 168). If the **ZZ** appears in the document, vim is in Input mode. Press ESCAPE to put vim back in Command mode, use the **x** command and ARROW keys to remove the **ZZ**, and give another **ZZ** command.

Try other commands from Chapter 6 as you experiment with the **pizza** file and create other files to work with. The vim help system displays vim documentation while you are using vim; see Sobell, page 165.

DELIVERABLES

This lab gives you practice using the vim editor to create and modify files.