

VI EDITOR

The vi editor is a classic text editor found on many Unix and Unix-like systems. It stands out for its efficiency and powerful features, though it can be a bit challenging for beginners. Here's a basic guide to help you get started with vi:

Starting vi

To open a file with vi, use the following command:

\$ vi filename

If the file doesn't exist, vi will create it.

Basic Modes in vi

1. **Normal Mode:** The default mode for navigating and manipulating text.
2. **Insert Mode:** For inserting text.
3. **Command-Line Mode:** For executing commands.

Switching Modes

- **Normal Mode:** Press Esc.
- **Insert Mode:** Press i to insert before the cursor, I to insert at the beginning of the line, a to append after the cursor, or A to append at the end of the line.
- **Command-Line Mode:** Press : from Normal Mode.

Basic Commands

- **Navigating:**
 - h : move left
 - j : move down
 - k : move up
 - l : move right
 - w : move to the beginning of the next word
 - b : move to the beginning of the previous word
 - 0 : move to the beginning of the line
 - \$: move to the end of the line
- **Editing:**
 - x : delete the character under the cursor
 - dd : delete the current line

- d2d : delete two lines
- yy : yank (copy) the current line
- p : paste the yanked text after the cursor
- u : undo the last change
- Ctrl+r : redo the undone change
- **Saving and Exiting:**
 - :w : save (write) the file
 - :q : quit
 - :wq or :x : save and quit
 - :q! : quit without saving
- **Search and Replace:**
 - /pattern : search forward for pattern
 - ?pattern : search backward for pattern
 - n : repeat the last search forward
 - N : repeat the last search backward
 - :%s/old/new/g : replace all occurrences of old with new in the file

Example Workflow

1. **Open a file:** vi example.txt
2. **Switch to Insert Mode:** Press i
3. **Edit the file:** Type your text
4. **Return to Normal Mode:** Press Esc
5. **Save and Exit:** Type :wq and press Enter

Helpful Tips

- **Undo and Redo:** Use u to undo and Ctrl+r to redo changes.
- **Visual Mode:** Press v to enter visual mode for selecting text.

vi can be daunting at first, but with practice, it becomes a powerful tool for text editing. If you want a more user-friendly version, consider using vim (Vi IMproved), which includes many enhancements and features.