

UNIX VI Editor Notes

Getting In There

- % vi filename # the real thing
- % view filename # read only mode
- % vedit filename # helpful for beginners

Modes

- Command # enter positioning and editing commands
- Input # inputting and changing text, enter ESC to get back to command mode
- Last Line # entered by typing : while in command mode, a special form of command mode where commands appear on the last line

Moving Around

- Down Arrow Key # move down 1 line
- Up Arrow Key # move up 1 line
- Left Arrow Key # move left 1 character
- Right Arrow Key # move right 1 character

- Control f # scroll forward 1 screen
- Control b # scroll back 1 screen
- Control d # scroll down ½ a screen
- Control u # scroll up ½ a screen

- 0 # move to the start of the line
- \$ # move to the end of the line
- n| # move to the *n*th column in the line

- G # go to the end of the file
- nG # go to the *n*th line in the file

- /string # go to the next occurrence of *string*
- ?string # go to the previous occurrence of *string*
- n # go to the next occurrence of the last search
- N # go to the previous occurrence of the last search

Inputting Text

- i (ESC) # insert text before the cursor
- I (ESC) # insert text at the start of the line
- a (ESC) # append text after the cursor
- A (ESC) # append text at the end of the line
- o (ESC) # open a new line below the cursor
- O (ESC) # open a new line above the cursor

Deleting Text

- x # delete character at the cursor
- X # delete character to the left of the cursor
- dw # delete a word (or part of word to right of cursor)
- 3dw # delete 3 words

- dd # delete line containing the cursor
- 5dd # delete 5 lines starting from line containing the cursor
- D # delete line to right of cursor (from cursor to end of line)
- dG # delete to end of file
- d1G # delete from beginning of file to cursor
- :5,10d # delete lines 5 to 10

Editing Text

- r # replace single character at cursor
- R (ESC) # replace multiple characters starting at cursor
- C (ESC) # change from cursor to end of line
- cw (ESC) # change word (or part of) from cursor to end of word
- J # join current line to line below
- :s/string1/string2/ # substitute first occurrence of *string1* on current line with *string2*
- :s/string1/string2/g # substitute each occurrence of *string1* on current line with *string2*
- :%s/string1/string2/ # substitute first occurrence of *string1* on every line with *string2*
- :%s/string1/string2/g # substitute each occurrence of *string1* on every line with *string2*

Copy and Paste

- yy (or Y) # yank a copy of the current line
- 4yy # yank a copy of 4 lines starting at the current line
- p # put (paste) yanked or deleted line(s) below the current line
- P # put (paste) yanked or deleted line(s) above the current line

Save and Exit

- :w # save changes (write buffer)
- :w new_filename # write buffer to a new filename
- :wq # save changes and then quit vi
- ZZ # save changes and then quit vi
- :q! # quit vi without saving changes
- :w! # force a write (if permitted)

Others

- . (dot) # repeat last text changing command
- u # undo last change
- :f # show filename, current line no. and no. of lines
- % # find matching () or { }
- :set number # show line numbers
- :set nonumber # hide line numbers
- :set list # show invisible characters such as Tab and end-of-line
- :set nolist # turn off display of invisible characters
- :set # display all vi variables that have been set
- :set all # display all possible vi variables and their current values