

## Unit -3

### The Vi Editor

**Introduction:** There are many ways to edit files in Unix and for many of us the best way is using screen-oriented text editor vi. This editor enables us to edit lines in context with other lines in the file vi stands for **Visual Display Editor**. We can enter and exit text with vi, but it is not a word-processor: we format vi text by inserting codes that are then interpreted by another program, a formatter. Now a days we would find an improved version of vi editor which is called **VIM**. Here VIM stands for vi **IM**proved.

#### Vi Basics:

Following is the example to create a new file "sometext" if it already does not exist in the current working directory.

`$vi sometext`

- Vi presents you a full screen with the filename shown at the bottom with the qualifier [New File].
- The cursor is positioned at the top and all remaining lines of the screen(except the last, show a tilde (~). You can't take your cursor there yet; they are nonexistent lines.
- The last line is reserved for commands that you can enter to act on text. This line is also used by the system to display messages.
- You are in the Command Mode, one of the three modes used by vi. This is the mode where you can pass commands to act on text, using most of the keys of the keyboard. Pressing a key doesn't show it on screen but may perform a function like moving the cursor to the next line, or deleting a line. You can't use the Command Mode to enter or replace text.
- For text editing, vi uses 24 of the 25 lines that are normally available in a terminal. To enter text, you must switch to the Input Mode. First press the key marked i, and you are in this mode ready to input text.
- After text entry is complete, the cursor is positioned on the last character of the last line. This is known as the **current line** and the character where the cursor is stationed is the **current cursor position**.
- Press the [Esc] key to revert to command mode.
- The text that you entered hasn't been saved on disk but exist in some temporary storage called a buffer. To save the entered text, you must switch to the ex Mode (also known as Last Line Mode).