

4. Scrolling ([Ctrl-f], [Ctrl-b], [Ctrl-d] and [Ctrl-u])

Faster movement can be achieved by scrolling text in the window using the control keys.

The two commands for scrolling a page at a time are

[Ctrl-f]	scrolling forward
[Ctrl-b]	scrolling backward

You can use the repeat factor, like in 10[Ctrl-f], to scroll 10 pages and navigate faster in the process.

You can scroll by half a page as well:

[Ctrl-d]	scroll half page forward
[Ctrl-u]	scroll half page backward

5. Absolute Movement (G)

Vi displays the total number of lines in the last line. At any time, you can press [Ctrl-g] to know the current line number:

"/etc/passwd" [Read only] line 89 of 179 - -49%- -

The cursor is on line 89 (49% of 179), and this read-protected file has 179 lines in all.

Compilers also indicate line numbers in their error messages. You need to use the G command with the line number as repeat factors to locate the offending lines. To move to the 40th line, use

40G	Goes to line number 40
1G	Goes to line number 1
G	Goes to end of file

EDITING TEXT

Editing text we'll only be using a special mode of these two operators:

d delete

y yank (copy)