INPUT MODE – ENTERING AND REPLACING TEXT

When a key of the Input Mode is pressed, it doesn't appears on the screen but subsequent key depressions do. we'll consider the following commands:

- Insert and append (i, a, I and A)
- Replace (r, R, s and S)
- Open a line (o and O)

After you have completed text entry using any of these commands (except r), you must return to the command mode by pressing [Esc].

1) Insertion of Text (i and a) :

The simplest type of input is insertion of text – whether the file contains any text or not, when vi is invoked, the cursor is always positioned on the first character of the first line.

i : i command is invoked with the cursor positioned on existing text, text on it's right will be shifted further without being overwritten.

a : To append text to the right of the cursor position.

2) Insertion of Text at Line Extremes (I and A) :

I and A behave somewhat like i and a except that they work at line extremes by performing the necessary navigation to move there:

I : Insert text at beginning of line.

A : Appends text at end of line.

3) Opening a New Line (o and O) :

Many a time it has been observed that people migrating from a word-processing environment use convolute sequence to open a new line below the current line.

o : opens a new line below the current line.

O : opens a new line above the current line.

4) Replacing Text (r, s, R and S) :

To change existing text, vi provides mainly four commands:

r : To replace a single characters with another.