SEARCHING FOR A PATTERN (/ AND ?)

- Vi is extremely strong in search and replacement activities. Searching can be made in both forward and reverse directions and can be repeated.
- It is initiated from the command mode by pressing a /, which shows up in the last line.

For example : if you are looking for the string printf, enter this sting after the /:

        /printf [Enter]

- Searches begins forward to position the cursor on the first instance of the word
- Vi searches the entire file, so if the pattern can't be located till the end of file is reached, the search wraps around to resume from the beginning of file.
- If the searches still fails, vi responds with the message pattern not found.

Likewise , the sequence

        ?pattern [Enter]

Searches backward for the most previous instance of the pattern.

Repeating The Last Pattern Search(n and N)

The n and N commands repeat a search where n and N   don't exactly play the roles you'd expect them to. For repeating a search in the direction the previous search was made with / or ?.

n - The cursor will be positioned at the beginning of the pattern, in this way, you can press n repeatedly to scan all instance of the string.

N - reverse the direction pursued by n, which means you can use it to retrace your searches path.

SUBSTITUTION- SEARCH AND REPLACE (:s)

Vi offers yet another powerful features, that of substitution, which is achieved with the ex Mode s (substitute) command. It lets you replace a pattern in the file with something else.