Invoking `vi`

To create a new file, invoke `vi` with a new file name by typing commands to create, edit, or view a file.

Command Format

```
vi option(s) filename
view filename
```

Input Commands

To insert or append text, use the commands in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1   Append and Insert Commands for `vi`

Command	Meaning
a	Appends text after the cursor
A	Appends text at the end of the line
i	Inserts text before the cursor
I	Inserts text at the beginning of the line
o	Opens a new line below the cursor
O	Opens a new line above the cursor

Note – The `vi` editor is case-sensitive, so use the specified case when using these cursor input commands.

Positioning Commands

Table 7-2 shows the key sequences that control cursor movement in the `vi` editor.

Table 7-2   Key Sequences

Command	Meaning
h, ←, or Back Space	Moves left one character
j or ↓	Moves down one line
k or ↑	Moves up one line
l, →, or Space bar	Moves right (forward) one character
w	Moves forward one word
b	Moves back one word
e	Moves to the end of the current word
$	Moves to the end of the line
0 (zero) or ^	Moves to the beginning of the line
Return	Moves down to the beginning of the next line
Control-F	Pages forward one screen
Control-D	Scrolls down one-half screen
Control-B	Pages back one screen
Control-U	Scrolls up one-half screen
Control-L	Refreshes the screen

Editing Commands

The following sections describe the editing commands in the vi editor.

Deleting Text

To delete text, use the options in Table 7-3.

Table 7-3 Text Deletion Commands for vi

Command	Meaning
x	Deletes a character at the cursor
dw	Deletes a word (or part of the word to the right of the cursor)
dd	Deletes the line containing the cursor
D	Deletes the line to the right of the cursor (from cursor position to the end of the line)
:5,10d	Deletes Lines 5 through 10

Undoing, Repeating, and Changing Text Commands

To change text, undo a change, or repeat an edit function, use the commands in Table 7-4. Many of these commands change vi to edit mode. To return to command mode, press the Escape key.

Table 7-4 Edit Commands for vi

Command	Meaning
cw	Changes a word (or part of a word) at the cursor location to the end of the word
R	Overwrites or replaces characters on the line
C	Changes from cursor to end of the line
s	Substitutes string for characters
r	Replaces the character at the cursor with one other character

Table 7-4 Edit Commands for `vi` (Continued)

Command	Meaning
J	Joins the current line and the line below
xp	Transposes the character at the cursor and the character to the right
~	Changes the case of the letter (uppercase or lowercase) at the cursor
u	Undoes the previous command
U	Undoes all changes to the current line
u	Undoes the previous last-line command
:r *filename*	Inserts (reads) the file at the line after the cursor

To search and replace text, use the following options in Table 7-5.

Table 7-5 Search and Replace Commands

Command	Meaning
/*string*	Searches forward for the *string*
?*string*	Searches backward for the *string*
n	Finds the next occurrence of the string
N	Finds the previous occurrence of the string
:%s/*old*/*new*/g	Searches and replaces globally

Copying and Pasting Text

The copy commands write the copied text into a temporary buffer. The paste commands read the text from the temporary buffer and write the text into the current document at the specified location.

To copy and paste text, use the options in Table 7-6.

Table 7-6   Copy and Paste Commands

Command	Meaning
yy (lowercase)	Yanks a copy of a line
p (lowercase)	Puts yanked or deleted text after the current position
P (uppercase)	Puts yanked or deleted text before the current position
:1,3 co 5	Copies Lines 1 through 3 and puts them after Line 5
:4,6 m 8	Moves Lines 4 through 6 to Line 8 (Line 6 becomes Line 8; Line 5 becomes Line 7, and Line 4 becomes Line 6)

Note – Both delete and yank write to a buffer. When yanking, deleting, and pasting, the put commands insert the text differently depending on whether you are pasting words or lines.

Saving and Quitting Files

To save and quit a file, use the options in Table 7-7.

Table 7-7   Save and Quit Commands

Command	Meaning
:w	Saves the changes (write buffer)
:w *new_filename*	Writes the contents of the buffer to *new_filename*
:wq	Saves the changes and quits vi
:x	Saves the changes and quits vi
ZZ	Saves the changes and quits vi
:q!	Quits without saving changes
:wq!	Saves the changes and quits vi (! overrides read-only permissions for the owner of the file only)

Customizing Your vi Session

The vi editor includes options for customizing edit sessions, such as:

- Displaying line numbers

- Displaying invisible characters, such as tab and end-of-line characters

Use the set command in command mode to control these options, as shown in Table 7-8.

Table 7-8   Edit Session Customization Commands

Command	Meaning
:set nu	Shows line numbers
:set nonu	Hides line numbers
:set ic	Instructs searches to ignore case
:set noic	Instructs searches to be case-sensitive
:set list	Displays invisible characters, such as tab and end-of-line
:set nolist	Turns off the display of invisible characters
:set showmode	Displays current mode of operation
:set noshowmode	Turns off mode display
:set	Displays all vi variables set
:set all	Displays all possible vi variables and their current settings

You can also place these options in a file you create in your home directory called .exrc. The set options are placed in this file, without the preceding colon, one command to a line. After the .exrc file has been created, it is read by the system each time you open a vi session.

To find a particular line, use the options in Table 7-9.

Table 7-9   Positioning Commands

Command	Meaning
G	Goes to the last line of the file
1G	Goes to the first line of the file
:21	Goes to Line 21
21G	Goes to Line 21

To clear the screen or insert files, use the options in Table 7-10.

Table 7-10 Refreshing Commands

Command	Meaning
Control-L	Refreshes the screen