**vi (**[**vim**](http://www.vim.org)**) E D I T O R ... A Q U I C K R E F E R E N C E**

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To start the vi editor, type vi [file-name] at the linux$ prompt. When vi starts

you are in the COMMAND mode. To add text, you must first get into INPUT mode.

To delete, change, or move text, you must return to COMMAND mode. There are

several ways to get into INPUT mode, as described below. To return to the

COMMAND mode, press the ESC (escape) key. If you get stuck or confused while

learning the vi editor, press ESC.

**O P E N I N G, S A V I N G, and C L O S I N G F I L E S U S I N G vi**

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vim [file] [RETURN] Open a file using the vim version of vi

ZZ Exit vi, saving changes

**I N P U T M O D E**

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Note: To get into INPUT mode, type any of these characters from COMMAND mode:

i I a A o O R s S c C . Press ESC (escape) to return to COMMAND mode.

i [text] Insert text before cursor

I [text] Insert text at start of line

a [text] Append text after cursor

A [text] Append text at end of line

o [text] Open a new line below the cursor

O [text] Open a new line above the cursor

r [char] Replace a single character with [char>

r [RETURN] Split a line at the cursor

R [text] Replace old text

s [text] Substitute one or more characters for a char.

S [text] Substitute an entire line

cw [text] Change a word to [text]

cb [text] Change from start of word to cursor

ce [text] Change from cursor to end of word

C [text] Change from cursor to end of line

**C O M M A N D M O D E**

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Note: To repeat a command N times enter: N[command]

To repeat the last modification, type: . (period)

To undo the last modification, type: u

-------------------- M O V I N G T H E C U R S O R ---------------------

Note: The arrow keys work but the mouse does NOT move the cursor.

h Move left one space

j Move down one line

k Move up one line

l Move right one space

0 Move to start of line (zero)

$ Move to end of line

[n]G or :[n] Move to the n-th line in the file

G Move to the last line in the file

H Move to first line on screen

L Move to last line on screen

M Move to middle line on screen

w Move to beginning of next word

( Move to beginning of sentence

) Move to end of sentence

{ Move to beginning of paragraph

} Move to end of paragraph

------------------------ D E L E T I N G T E X T -------------------------

x Delete a single character at the cursor

dd Delete an entire line and put into buffer

D Delete from cursor to end of line

dw Delete from cursor to start of next word

df[char] Delete from cursor through [char]

dt[char] Delete from cursor to, but not including [char]

dH Delete from top of screen to current line

dL Delete from current line to bottom of screen

------------ Y A N K I N G A N D P U T T I N G T E X T ---------------

yy or Y Copy a line into buffer without deleting

yw Copy a word into buffer without deleting

p Put last yank or delete after the cursor

P Put last yank or delete before the cursor

xp Reverse two characters

ddp Reverse two lines

J Join the next line to the current line

-------------------- P A T T E R N S E A R C H I N G ---------------------

/[pattern] [RETURN] Search forward for [pattern]

n or / [RETURN] Repeat the last search forward

?[pattern] [RETURN] Search backward for [pattern]

N or ? [RETURN] Repeat the last search backward

'' (2 single quotes) Return to previous cursor position

:1,$ s/[old]/[new]/g Globally search for and replace [old] with [new]

---------- S C R E E N B Y S C R E E N S C R O L L I N G ------------

[CTRL] U Scroll up half a screen

[CTRL] D Scroll down half a screen

[CTRL] F Scroll forward one screen

[CTRL] B Scroll backward one screen

z [RETURN] Redraw the screen, cursor line at top

**----------------- ex E D I T O R C O M M A N D S --------------**

Note: These commands (issued from COMMAND mode) belong to ex, a line editor.

:wq [RETURN] Write (save) the file to disk and quit vi

:w [RETURN] Write (save) the file to disk without quitting

:q! [RETURN] Quit without saving the last changes

:f [RETURN] Show filename and current line

:r [file] [RETURN] Read [file] into buffer at cursor position

:! [command] [RETURN] Execute a UNIX command without quitting vi

**U N I X C O M M A N D S**

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Note: These commands are not part of the vi editor.

Issue these commands from the unix% prompt.

ls, ls -l, ls -la [dir] List contents of a directory

cp [file1] [file2] Copy [file1] to [file2]

mv [file2] [file2] Move [file1] to [file2]

rm [file] Remove (delete) a file

mkdir [dir] Create a new directory

cd [dir] Change the current directory

rmdir [dir] Remove (delete) a directory

[CTRL] z Stop the current process

bg Resume a stopped process in the background

ps -a List all processes and characteristics

kill -9 [job number] Kill a stopped job (process, or program)

man [command] Display manual pages about a command, such as vi

!! Repeat the last command