

Introduction to Text Editors

 THE **LINUX** FOUNDATION

Text Editors

- At some point you will have to edit text files, and while graphical system administration applications can help you avoid much of this, often it is far more laborious this way than it is to directly work on relevant files with a **text editor**
- By now you have realized Linux is full of choices, and when it comes to text editors, the inventory of alternatives is enormous; the editors vary from simple to very complex
- Many of these editors are already familiar to developers used to working on UNIX-like systems
- Venerable stalwarts such as **vi** and **emacs** are completely compatible with the versions used on other operating systems

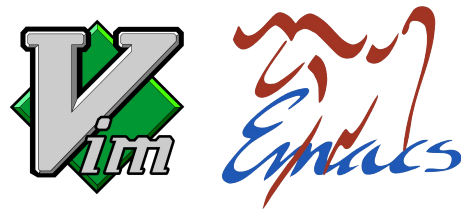
Available Editors

Here is a partial list of widely available editors on any Linux distribution:

- **vi** (standard editor available on all UNIX-like systems)
- **vim-enhanced** (vi with many enhancements)
- **vim-X11** (vi with full graphics support)
- **emacs** (standard editor available on all UNIX-like systems)
- **xemacs** (variant of emacs preferred by some)
- **nano** (small and easy to use)
- **gedit** (graphical editor part of the GNOME desktop)
- **KWrite** (graphical editor part of the KDE desktop)
- **kate** (graphical editor part of the KDE desktop)
- **nedit** (simple graphical editor)

vi end emacs

- **vi** and **emacs** are the two editors most commonly preferred by Linux users
- They both have very long histories and are available on virtually every Linux installation (although some do not install emacs by default due to some prejudice)
- The UNIX-like world tends to divide between advocates of each; rather silly, holy wars have often broken out between the two camps
- Both of these editors have a basic form which is purely text-based and can run in a non-graphical environment
- They also have one or more X-based graphical forms, which have extended capabilities, and may be easier to sort through for the inexperienced



nano

- There are many other editors available, some associated with desktop managers
- One particularly easy, terminal-based text editor is **nano**
- Just fire up nano on a file and all the help you need is at the bottom of the screen, and you should be able to proceed without a problem

```

                                     : : :
iLE88Dj. :jD88888Dj:
.LGltE888D.f8GjjL8888E;
iE :8888Et. :G8888;
:i  E888. :8888;
    D888. :8888;
    D888. :8888;
    D888. :8888;
    D888. :8888;
    888W. :8888;
    W88W. :8888;
    W88W. :8888;
    DGGD: :8888;
                                     :8888;
                                     :W888;
                                     :8888;
                                     E888i
                                     tW88D
```

gedit and KWrite

- **gedit** is the editor associated with the GNOME desktop system, and **KWrite** is associated with KDE
- Both are very easy to begin using, extremely capable and configurable



