vi Editor

THE LINUX FOUNDATION

vi

- **vi** (pronounced as “vee-eye”) can be found on any Linux system; usually the actual installed program is **vim** (**vi Improved**) which is aliased to the name vi
- Even if you do not want to use vi, it is good to gain some familiarity with it as it is such a standard tool, and there may be times when you have no other choice
- GNOME offers a very graphical interface known as **gvim** and KDE offers **kvim**; both may be found to be easier to use at first
- Using the basic vi (or vim) program, all commands are entered through the keyboard; you do not have to deal with the mouse, unless you are using a graphical version
- The most confusing part about vi is that it has two fundamental modes: **command** and **insert**, and you always have to remember which mode you are in; you switch from one to the other by hitting the escape key, and keyboard functions in each mode can be quite different