



# VI editor

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# VI editor

- Most popular and commonly used Linux text editor
- Usually available in all Linux distros
- vi has two modes:
  - Command mode
  - Insert mode
- Unlike many word processors, vi starts up in command mode.

# VI editor

- Starting vi
  - You may use vi to open an already existing file by typing  
vi filename
- In command mode, the letters of the keyboard perform editing functions (like moving the cursor, deleting text, etc.). To enter command mode, press the escape <Esc> key.
- In insert mode, the letters you type form words and sentences.

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- Entering Text
  - In order to begin entering text in this empty file, you must change from command mode to insert mode. To do this, type “I”
- Deleting Words
  - To delete a word, move the cursor to the first letter of the word, and type “dw”
  - This command deletes the word and the space following it.
  - To delete three words type “3dw”

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- Deleting Lines
  - To delete a whole line, type “dd”
  - The cursor does not have to be at the beginning of the line. Typing dd deletes the entire line containing the cursor and places the cursor at the start of the next line.
  - To delete two lines, type “2dd”
  - To delete from the cursor position to the end of the line, type “D (uppercase)”

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- Moving by Searching
  - To move quickly by searching for text, while in command mode:
    - Type / (slash)
    - Enter the text to search for
    - Press <Return>
  - The cursor moves to the first occurrence of that text.
  - To repeat the search in a forward direction, type “n”
  - To repeat the search in a backward direction, type “N”

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- To save the edits you have made, but leave vi running and your file open:
  - Press <Esc>
  - Type :w
  - Press <Return>
- To quit vi, and discard any changes your have made since last saving:
  - Press <Esc>
  - Type :q!
  - Press <Return>