**Linux Editors**

* What is a text editor?
  + A text editor is a program which enables you to create and manipulate character data (text) in a computer file.
  + A text editor is not a word processor although some text editors do include word processing facilities.
  + Text editors often require "memorizing" commands in order to perform editing tasks. The more you use them, the easier it becomes. There is a "learning curve" in most cases though.
* There are several standard text editors available on most LINUX systems:
  + ed - standard line editor
  + ex - extended line editor
  + vi - a visual editor; full screen; uses ed/ex line-mode commands for global file editing
  + sed - stream editor for batch processing of files
* In addition to these, other local "favorites" may be available:
  + emacs - a full screen editor and much more
  + pico - an easy "beginner's" editor
  + lots of others

**The Standard Display Editor - vi**

* vi supplies commands for:
  + inserting and deleting text
  + replacing text
  + moving around the file
  + finding and substituting strings
  + cutting and pasting text
  + reading and writing to other files
* vi uses a "buffer"
  + While using vi to edit an existing file, you are actually working on a copy of the file that is held in a temporary buffer in your computer's memory.
  + If you invoked vi with a new filename, (or no file name) the contents of the file only exist in this buffer.
  + Saving a file writes the contents of this buffer to a disk file, replacing its contents. You can write the buffer to a new file or to some other file.
  + You can also decide not to write the contents of the buffer, and leave your original file unchanged.
* vi operates in two different "modes":
  + Command mode
    - vi starts up in this mode
    - Whatever you type is interpreted as a command - not text to be inserted into the file.
    - The mode you need to be in if you want to "move around" the file.
  + Insert mode
    - This is the mode you use to type (insert) text.
    - There are several commands that you can use to enter this mode.
    - Once in this mode, whatever you type is interpreted as text to be included in the file. You cannot "move around" the file in this mode.
    - Must press the ESC (escape) key to exit this mode and return to command mode.