

* Chap-ID : Text Editors *

* Learning objective

By the end of this computer, you should be familiar with

- How to create and edit files using the available linux text editors.
- nano, a simple text-based editor.
- gedit, a simple graphical editor.
- vi and emacs, two advanced editor with both text-based and graphical interface.

* Creating Files without using an Editor

→ Sometimes, you may want to create a short file and not want to bother invoking a full text editors.

→ If you want to create a file without using an editor, there are two standard ways to create one from the command line and fill it with content.

```
$ echo line one > myfile
```

```
$ echo line two >> myfile
```

```
$ echo line three >> myfile.
```

→ Note that while a single greater-than sign(>) will send the output of a command to a file

→ Two of them (>>) will append the new output to an existing file.

→ The second way to use cat combined with redirection

```
$ cat << EOF > myfile
```

```
> line one
```

```
> line two
```

```
> line three
```

```
> EOF
```

```
$
```

→ In this example, the string used to show the beginning and end of the Process need not be EOF

→ It could be stop or any other string not used in the content itself

→ Both techniques produce a file with the following lines in it

line one

line two

line three

* nano

→ nano is easy to use, and requires very little effort to learn.

→ To open a file nano <filename> and Press Enter. If the file does not exist, It will be created.

→ nano Provides a two line shortcut bar at the bottom of the screen that list the available commands.

- CTRL -G

Display the help screen

- CTRL -O

write to a file

- CTRL -X

Exit a file.

- CTRL -R

insert content from another file to current.

- CTRL -C

Show cursor position.

* vi and emacs

* introduction to vi

→ usually, the actual program installed on your system is vim, which stands for vi improved

→ Even if you do not want to use vi, it is good to gain some familiarity with it

* Vimtutor

→ Typing Vimtutor launches a short but very comprehensive tutorial for those who want to learn their first vi command.

→ Even though it provides only introduction and just seven lessons.

* modes in vi

→ vi provides three modes

→ It is vital to not lose track of which mode you are in.

Mode	Feature
command.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By default, vi starts in command mode • Each key is an editor command. • Keyboard strokes are interpreted as command that can modify file content.
Insert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type i to switch to insert mode from command mode. • Insert mode is used to enter text into file. • Insert mode is indicated by an "i INSERT ?" indicator at the bottom of the screen. • Press ESC to exit.
Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type : to switch to the line mode from command mode. Each key is an external command including operations such as write the file content to disk • Uses line editing commands inherited from older line editors. • Press Esc to exit.