

Edit a File When You Are Viewing It Using more / less Command Pager

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I can use [less](#) or more pagers to view a file. How do I **start an editor** (such as vi or other text editor) to edit the current file without **leaving the less or more** pager command?

You can always start up an editor immediately to edit the current file being viewed. This will save some time while typing commands. The editor is taken from the environment variable VISUAL if defined, or EDITOR if VISUAL is not defined, or defaults to “vi” if neither VISUAL nor EDITOR is defined. I suggest you define your EDITOR first, enter:



```
$ export  
EDITOR=vim  
OR  
$ echo 'export EDITOR=vim' >>  
~/.bash_profile  
export EDITOR=vim
```

Feel free to replace vim with emacs, joe or any other editor of your choice. Open a text file using more or less pager, type:

```
$ less  
myfile.txt
```

```
OR  
$ more  
~/some.conf
```

To edit a file, hit **␣** key from keyboard. This will start up an editor at current line and file.