

Vi Commands

Closing and Saving Files

When you edit a file in vi, you are actually editing a copy of the file rather than the original. The following selections describe methods you might use when closing a file, quitting vi, or both.

Quitting and Saving a File

The commands ZZ will allow you to quit vi and save the edits made to a file. You will then return to the Linux prompt. Note that you can also use the following commands.

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	:w	To save your file but not quit vi.
02	:q	To quit if you have not any edits.
03	:wq	To quit and save edits.

Quitting without Saving Edits

To erase all edits made to the file and either start over or quit. To do so, you can choose from the following two commands.

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	:e!	Reads the original file back in so that you can start over.
02	:q!	Wipes out all edits and allows you to exit from vi.

Cursor Movement

You must be in command mode if you wish to move the cursor to another position in your file. If you have just finished typing text, you are still in insert mode and will need to press Esc to return to the command mode.

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	h	move left
02	j	move down
03	k	move up
04	l	move right
05	w	moves the cursor forward
06	b	moves the cursor backward
07	e	moves to the end of word

Screen Movements

To move the cursor to a line within your current screen uses the following command or keys.

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	H	move cursor to the top line of the screen
02	M	move cursor to the middle line of the screen
03	L	move cursor to the bottom line of the screen

Inserting

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	r	replace character under cursor with next character typed
02	R	keep replacing character until esc is hit
03	i	insert befor cursor
04	a	append after cursor
05	A	append at end of line
06	O	open line above cursor and enter append mode

Deleting

To delete a character,first place your cursor on that character.then you may use any of the following command.

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	x	to delete character under cursor
02	X	to delete the character to the left of your cursor
03	Dd	to delete all the current line.
04	dw	to delete from the character selected to the end of the word
05	D	to delete from the current character to the end of the line

Copying Text with Yank

If you wish to amke a duplicate copy of existing text,you may use the Yank and put commands to accomplish this function.Yank copies the selected text into a buffer and holds it until another yank or deletion occurs.Yank is usually used in combination witha word or line object such as the ones shown below.

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	Yw	copies a word into a buffer
02	yy	copies a line into a buffer

Cutting & Pasting Text

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	yw	yanks current word
02	yy	yanks current line
03	y\$	yanks to the end of the line
04	Y	yanks the current line

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
05	P	Pasting from the cursor position

Command for Quit Vi

Sr.No	Command	Descriptions
01	ZZ	writes the buffer to the file and quits vi
02	:wq	writes the buffer to the file and quits vi
03	:w filename and :q	writes the buffer to the filename with the content of the buffer and quits vi.
04	:w! filename and :q	overwrites existing the filename with the current of the buffer and quits vi.
05	:q!	quits vi whether or not changes made to the buffer since the last write command
05	:q	quits vi if changes made to the buffer were written to a file.

Misc Commands

Sr.No	Options	Descriptions
01	Ctrl + G	Gives the line number of current position in the buffer and modification status of the line
02	.(dot)	repeats the action performed by the last command
03	u	undoes the action performed by the last command
04	U	restores all changes to the current line since you moved the cursor to the line
05	J	joins the line immediately below,the current line with the current line
06	~	changes character at current cursor position from upper case to lower and vice-versa
07	:sh	temporarily returns to the shell to perform some shell commands.type exit to return Vi
08	Ctrl + L	Clears and redraws the current windows.