

Unix Text Editors



vs. **vi**

Battle to the Death
Coming soon on pay-per-view.

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Unix Editor World Wide Wrestling Federation
UEWWEWF

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The **vi** command

- **vi** is a *visual* text editor.
- Most of you are too young to understand what a non-visual editor might be!
 - check out the **ed** editor!
- **vi** shows you part of your file and allows you to enter commands that change something (add new stuff, delete a char or line, etc).

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vi modes

vi has a couple of *modes*:

- command mode: move the cursor around, move to a different part of the file, issue editing commands, switch to insert mode.
- insert mode: whatever you type is put in the file (not interpreted as commands).

when you first start **vi** you will be in command mode.

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Cursor Movement Commands

(only in command mode!)

h move left one position

l move right one position

j move up one line

k move down one line

← spacebar also does this

Your arrow keys might work (depends on the version of vi and your terminal)

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More ~~Cursed~~ Cursor Movement

w move forward one word

b move backward one word

e move to the end of the word

) move to beginning of next sentence

(move to beginning of current sentence

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Scrolling Commands

CTRL-F scroll forward one screen

CTRL-B scroll backward one screen

CTRL-D scroll forward 1/2 screen

CTRL-U scroll backward 1/2 screen

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Command that delete stuff

- x** delete character (the one at the cursor)
- dw** delete word
- dd** delete line
- x** delete back one character (backspace)
- 3x** delete 3 characters (any number works)
- 5dd** delete 5 lines (any number works)

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Changing Text

- cw** change word (end with Esc)
- cc** change line (end with Esc)
- C** change rest of the line
- rx** replace character with 'x' (could be anything, not just 'x')

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Insert Mode

- In insert mode whatever you type goes in to the file. There are many ways to get in to insert mode:

- i** insert before current position
- a** append (insert starting after cursor)
- A** append at end of line
- R** begin overwriting text

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Ending Insert Mode

- To get out of insert mode (back to command mode) you press "Esc" (the escape key).
- There is a status line (bottom of screen) that tells you what mode/command you are in.

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Saving and Exiting

- ZZ** save if changes were made, and quit.
- :wq** Write file and quit
- :w** Write file
- :w *file*** Write to file named *file*
- :q** Quit
- :q!** Really quit (discard edits)

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Searching Commands

- /text** search forward for text
- ?text** search backward for text
- n** repeat previous search
- N** repeat search in opposite direction

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Other Stuff

- Copying and Yanking (Paste)
- Remembering positions
- Switching files
- Repeating commands
- Display line numbers
- Run Unix commands (for example: emacs)

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- emacs is every bit as cryptic as vi!
- emacs allows you to customize it with new commands and keyboard shortcuts.
- The emacs commands are written in elisp (a dialect of Lisp), so you need to understand elisp to do serious customization.

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Emacs online help

- Emacs has a built-in help system.
- Press **^h** (Ctrl-h) to get to the help system.
 - Now Press ? For a list of options
 - Press "t" for a tutorial!

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Emacs meta key

- Many emacs commands are invoked with sequence of keystrokes.
- Emacs doesn't have *modes* like vi – you can always enter text (at the current cursor position) or commands.
- Many commands start with a special keystroke called the metakey. (others use the control key).
- The ESC key is (usually) the meta key.

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Command List Syntax

- The book shows a list of tons of emacs commands. The syntax used to show this list looks like this:

C-a C-b (means Ctrl-a , Ctrl-b)
M-a M-b (means Esc, a, Esc, b)

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Important Commands

- Exit: **C-x C-c**
- Save file : **C-x C-s**
- Undo: **C-x u**
- Get out of a command: **C-g**

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Cursor movement

- Cursor keys usually work (it depends on how your terminal is set up and how emacs is configured).

C-f: forward (right arrow)

C-b: backward (left arrow)

C-p: previous line (up arrow)

C-n: next line (down arrow)

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Other stuff in emacs

- Move by words, sentences, paragraphs
- File handling – save/load file, etc.
- Delete char, word, sentence, *region*
- Buffer manipulation (multiple buffers)
- Searching, replacing
- Automatic indentation (major mode)
- Lots more (try the tutorial, read the book!)

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