

# Create, view, and edit text files

Linux #redhat #vi

## Linux File Editor

- A text editor is a program which enables you to create and manipulate data (text) in a Linux file
- There are several standard text editors available on most Linux systems
  - `vi` - Visual editor
  - `ed` - Standard line editor
  - `ex` - Extended line editor
  - `emacs` - A full screen editor
  - `pico` - Beginner's editor
  - `vim` - Advance version of vi
- `vi` is available in almost every Linux distribution and is considered easy to learn

## Introduction to vi Editor

vi supplies commands for:

- Inserting and deleting text
- Replacing text
- Moving around the file
- Finding and substituting strings
- Cutting and pasting text

Most common keys:

- `i` - insert
- Esc key - Escape out of any mode
- `r` - replace
- `d` - delete
- `:q!` - quit without saving
- `:wq!` - quit and save

Example using `vi` command:

```
[user@localhost ~]$ vi myfirstfile
```

- `vi` is creating a file named 'myfirstfile'

File editor:

```
~
```

```
~  
~  
~  
"myfirstfile"
```

- After running this the file editor will show up but note that you are still in command mod
  - There are 2 different modes in vi
    - 1st Mode is when you run the command
    - 2nd Mode is when you are inside of the vi and you start typing it.
      - If you want to get out of that typing mode you can hit Escape

To enter the **insert mode** just hit the letter **i** in your keyboard

File editor:

```
Hello World  
This is my first lesson to learn vi  
I am so excited about it  
~  
~  
~  
~  
-- INSERT --
```

- During this mode you can modify the text in the file as much as you want.
- You can use the arrow keys to move around the text but it is preferable to do it while not on INSERT mode because it can break your text.
- To exit this mode you can hit the Escape key in your keyboard.

If you want to save the file and exit the file editor you can either:

- Type **:wq!** while not in insert mode (also known as a "bang")
- Press Shift + Z + Z

File editor:

```
Hello World  
This is my first lesson to learn vi  
I am so excited about it  
~  
~  
~  
~  
:wq!
```

## Useful commands in vi

- If you want to delete an entire line of your file you can do so while not in INSERT mode and by locating your cursor in the line you want to delete and then pressing D + D (D two times) in your keyboard
- If you want to recover the last deleted item or revert the last change you can simply press **u** while not in INSERT mode. The equivalent in Windows for this function would be similar to the Shift + Z command.

- If you only want to remove one character from a line you can hover your cursor over the character you want to delete and simply hit `x` in your keyboard. Only while not in INSERT mode.
  - If you want to replace a character from a line you can hover your cursor over the selected character and hit `r` in your keyboard, then type the new character that will replace the selected one. Only while not in INSERT mode.
  - if you want to add a new empty line below a selected line you can hover your cursor over over the line you want to insert a line below and press the `o` key in your keyboard. Only while not in INSERT mode.
  - if you want to insert text to the right of the cursor you can hit `a` in your keyboard while not in INSERT mode and then enter the INSERT mode by typing `i` in your keyboard and start writing.
  - If you want to search a specific word or phrase in the whole document, you can type `/` followed by the word or phrase you want to look for and if it exists in the document it will be highlighted. This can only be done while not in IONsert mode.
  - If you mistyped something or made some changes to the text that you didn't want to you can exit the INSERT mode by pressing the Escape key and the typing `:q!`. This will exit the file without writing it, in other words it does not save the changes done.
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If you need to look for a specific keyword or phrase in a certain file you can use the `grep` command.

*Example using `grep` command:*

```
[user@localhost ~]$ grep lesson myfirstfile
```

- This line uses the `grep` command to search for the word "lesson" inside the file named "myfirstfile"

*Output:*

```
This is my first lesson to learn vi
```

- If the word exists within the file, the `grep` command will output the line in which it has been found,
  - In this case the word "lesson" was found inside the file in the line "This is my first lesson to learn vi"
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PRACTICE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN