Content:

What is the VI editor?

The VI editor is the most popular and classic text editor in the Linux family. Below, are some reasons which make it a widely used editor.

1) It is available in almost all Linux Distributions

2) It works the same across different platforms and Distributions

3) It is user-friendly. Hence, millions of Linux users love it and use it for their editing needs

Nowadays, there are advanced versions of the vi editor available, and the most popular one is VIM which is Vi Improved. Some of the other ones are Elvis, Nvi, Nano, and Vile. It is wise to learn vi because it is feature-rich and offers endless possibilities to edit a file. To work on VI editor, you need to understand its operation modes, i.e. command mode and insertion mode.

To start vi editor, type *vi fileName*

~ indiactes unused line.

press *i* to write some text from cursor and then press *escape* to stop inserting text. Now write *:wq* to save file and quit. Now write *cat fileName* to view content.

Key(s)	Use
i	Insert at cursor
a	Write after cursor
A	Write at end of line
ESC	Stop inserting text
u	Undo last change
U	Undo last change of entire line
o	Open a new line in insert mode
dd	Delete a line
3dd	Delete 3 lines
D	Delete contents of line after cursor
C	Delete contents of line after cursor and insert new text
dw	Delete a word
4dw	Delete 4 words
cw	Change a word
x	Delete character at cursor
R	Overwrite characters from cursor onward
~	Change case of individual character
Arrow keys	For navigation
Shift + zz	Save the file and quit
:w	Save the file but keep it open
:q	Quit without saving
:wq	Save and quit

Run of above commands:

[root@localhost ~]# vi testFile

this is text of file.

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[root@localhost ~]# cat testFile
this is text of file.