Moving the Cursor

Unlike many of the PC and MacIntosh editors, the mouse does not move the cursor within the vi editor screen (or window). You must use the the key commands listed below. On some UNIX platforms, the arrow keys may be used as well; however, since vi was designed with the Qwerty keyboard (containing no arrow keys) in mind, the arrow keys sometimes produce strange effects in vi and should be avoided.

If you go back and forth between a PC environment and a UNIX environment, you may find that this dissimilarity in methods for cursor movement is the most frustrating difference between the two.

In the table below, the symbol ^ before a letter means that the <Ctrl> key should be held down while the letter key is pressed.

*	j or <Return>

 [or down-arrow]	move cursor down one line

*	k [or up-arrow]	move cursor up one line

*	h or <Backspace>

 [or left-arrow] move cursor left one character

*	l or <Space>

 [or right-arrow]	move cursor right one character

*	0 (zero)	move cursor to start of current line (the one with the cursor)

*	$	move cursor to end of current line

	w	move cursor to beginning of next word

	b	move cursor back to beginning of preceding word

	:0<Return> or 1G	move cursor to first line in file

	:n<Return> or nG	move cursor to line n

	:$<Return> or Gmove cursor to last line in file

Screen Manipulation

The following commands allow the vi editor screen (or window) to move up or down several lines and to be refreshed.

	^f	move forward one screen

	^b	move backward one screen

^d      move down (forward) one half screen

^u      move up (back) one half screen

^l      redraws the screen

^r      redraws the screen, removing deleted lines