

Adding, Changing, and Deleting Text

Unlike PC editors, you cannot replace or delete text by highlighting it with the mouse. Instead use the commands in the following tables.

Perhaps the most important command is the one that allows you to back up and undo your last action. Unfortunately, this command acts like a toggle, undoing and redoing your most recent action. You cannot go back more than one step.

* u UNDO WHATEVER YOU JUST DID; a simple toggle

The main purpose of an editor is to create, add, or modify text for a file.

Inserting or Adding Text

The following commands allow you to insert and add text. Each of these commands puts the vi editor into insert mode; thus, the <Esc> key must be pressed to terminate the entry of text and to put the vi editor back into command mode.

* i insert text before cursor, until <Esc> hit
 I insert text at beginning of current line, until <Esc> hit
* a append text after cursor, until <Esc> hit
 A append text to end of current line, until <Esc> hit
* o open and put text in a new line below current line, until <Esc> hit
* O open and put text in a new line above current line, until <Esc> hit

Changing Text

The following commands allow you to modify text.

* r replace single character under cursor (no <Esc> needed)
 R replace characters, starting with current cursor position, until <Esc> hit
 cw change the current word with new text,

starting with the character under cursor, until <Esc> hit

 cNw change N words beginning with character under cursor, until <Esc> hit;

e.g., c5w changes 5 words

 C change (replace) the characters in the current line, until <Esc> hit

cc change (replace) the entire current line, stopping when <Esc> is hit

Ncc or cNc change (replace) the next N lines, starting with the current line,
stopping when <Esc> is hit

Deleting Text

The following commands allow you to delete text.

* x delete single character under cursor

Nx delete N characters, starting with character under cursor

dw delete the single word beginning with character under cursor

dNw delete N words beginning with character under cursor;

e.g., d5w deletes 5 words

D delete the remainder of the line, starting with current cursor position

* dd delete entire current line

Ndd or dNd delete N lines, beginning with the current line;

e.g., 5dd deletes 5 lines

Cutting and Pasting Text

The following commands allow you to copy and paste text.

yy copy (yank, cut) the current line into the buffer

Nyy or yNy copy (yank, cut) the next N lines, including the current line, into the buffer

p put (paste) the line(s) in the buffer into the text after the current line