

vi is a family of screen-oriented text editors which share certain characteristics, such as methods of invocation from the operating system command interpreter, and characteristic user interface features. The portable subset of the behavior of vi programs is described by (and thus standardized by) the Single Unix Specification and POSIX.

The original vi program was written by Bill Joy in 1976 for an early BSD Unix release.

This editor will work on nearly all unices and rescue/recovery CD's. It is a "must know" in case of serious system problems, because other editors may not work for various reasons (missing libraries, etc.).

Other console editors:

- nano / pico
- ed
- emacs
- vim (vi improved)
- and in worst case :
echo "xyz" > filename (empty the file)
echo "abc" >> filename (append)

Tutorial: run the "vimtutor" command and take 15 minutes to train.
(apt-get vim may be necessary if the command is not available)

Most important commands:

- quit without saving: ESC :q!
- save and quit: ESC :wq
- force save and quit: ESC :wq!
- just save: ESC :w
- save as...: ESC :w /tmp/xyz
- insert / append text: i / a
- delete current line: dd (and store in clipboard)
- delete current char: x
- replace word: cw
- undo: u
- paste: p
- search/replace: ESC :%s/search/replacewith/gc