



# Chapter 9: The vi Editor



# Introduction to vi (“vee-eye”)

- Advantages of vi:
  - The vi editor is an ASCII text editor available on every Linux distribution in the world
  - The vi editor can be execute both in a CLI interface and a GUI interface
  - While new features have been added to the vi editor, the core functions have been around for decades
  - vim (**vi improved**) has additional features



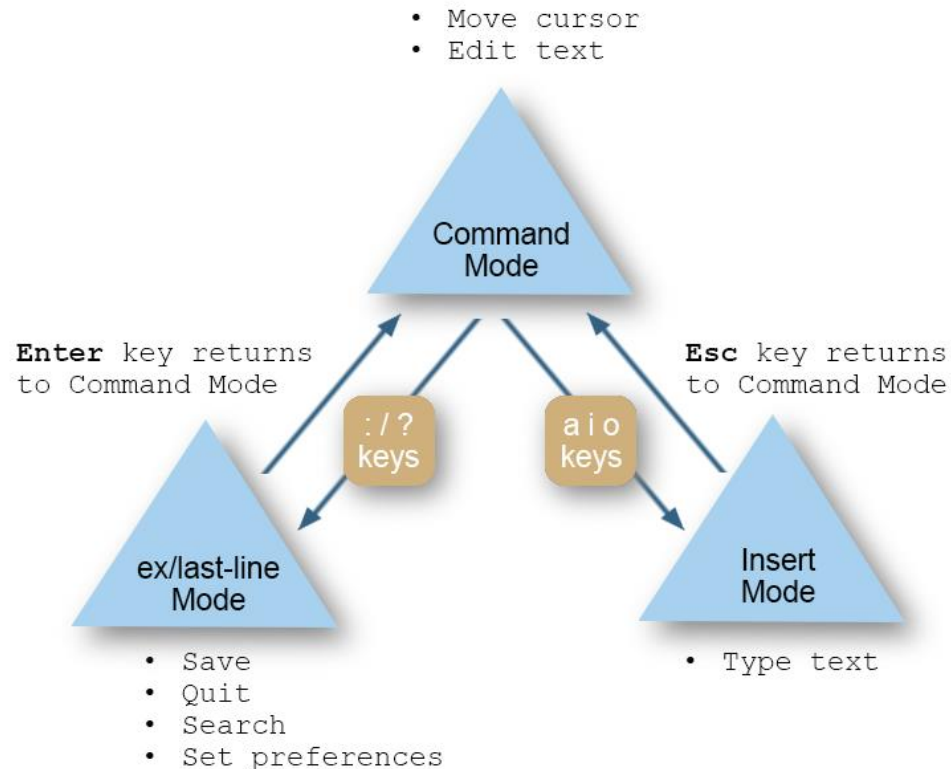
# vi modes

- Three modes in vi:
  - **Command** mode is used to position the cursor within the file and edit text
  - **Insert** mode is used to type text
  - **Ex** or **last-line** (named because commands are entered on the last line of the screen) mode is used save the file, quit vi, perform searches, and set editor preferences



# 3 Modes of vi

Knowing the 3 modes, what each is used for, and how to move from one to the other is key to learning vi.





# Command Mode: Cursor-positioning Commands

- Press the **Esc** key to enter Command mode

vi key	vim key	Movement
h	←	Left one character
j	↓	Down one line
k	↑	Up one line
l	→	Right one character
w		One word forward
b		One word back
^		Beginning of line
\$		End of the line
G		Goes to the last line



# Command Mode: Text Editing Commands

Keys to press	Operation performed
dd	Delete (cut) current line
3dd	Delete the next three lines
dw	Delete the current word
3dw	Delete the next three words
4dh	Delete four characters to the left
cc	Change a line
cw	Change a word
yy	Yank (copy) current line to clipboard
3yy	Yank the next three lines to clipboard
yw	Yank the current word to clipboard
y\$	Yank to the end of the line to clipboard
p	Put (paste) after cursor
P	Put (paste) before cursor



# Insert Mode: Text Entering Commands

- Type any of the commands below to enter Insert mode from command mode

Key	Purpose
a	Enter insert mode right after the cursor
A	Enter insert mode at the end of the line
i	Enter insert mode right before the cursor
I	Enter insert mode at the beginning of the line
o	Enter insert mode on a blank line after the cursor
O	Enter insert mode on a blank line before the cursor



# ex mode Commands

- Type “:” to enter ex mode from command mode

Ex command	Purpose
:w	Write the current file to the filesystem
:w filename	Save a copy of the current file as filename
:w!	Force writing to the current file
:1	Go to line number 1 or whatever number is given
:e filename	Open filename
:q	Quit if no changes made to file
:q!	Quit without saving changes to file
:set nu	Display line numbers
:set showmode	Displays current mode of operation
/ string, ?string	Searches forward (/) or backward (?) through file for <i>string</i>