vi Editor Commands

General Startup

    To use vi: vi filename

    To exit vi and save changes: ZZ   or :wq

    To exit vi without saving changes: :q!

    To enter vi command mode: *[esc]*

Counts

    A number preceding any vi command tells vi to repeat
    that command that many times.

Cursor Movement

    h   move left (backspace)

    j   move down

    k   move up

    l   move right (spacebar)

    [return]   move to the beginning of the next line

    $ last column on the current line

    0   move cursor to the first column on the current line

    ^   move cursor to first nonblank column on the current line

    w   move to the beginning of the next word or punctuation
mark

    W   move past the next space

    b   move to the beginning of the previous word or punctuation
mark

    B   move to the beginning of the previous word,ignores
punctuation

    e   end of next word or punctuation mark

    E   end of next word, ignoring punctuation

    H   move cursor to the top of the screen

    M   move cursor to the middle of the screen

L   move cursor to the bottom of the screen

Screen Movement

G   move to the last line in the file

xG   move to line x

z+   move current line to top of screen

z   move current line to the middle of screen

z-   move current line to the bottom of screen

^F   move forward one screen

^B   move backward one line

^D   move forward one half screen

^U   move backward one half screen

^R   redraw screen (does not work with VT100 type terminals)

^L   redraw screen (does not work with Televideo terminals)

Inserting

r   replace character under cursor with next character typed

R   keep replacing character until *[esc]* is hit

i   insert before cursor

a   append after cursor

A   append at end of line

O   open line above cursor and enter append mode

Deleting

x   delete character under cursor

dd   delete line under cursor

dw   delete word under cursor

db   delete word before cursor

Copying Code

yy   (yank)'copies' line which may then be put by the p(put) command. Proceed with a count for multiple lines.

Put Command

brings back previous deletion or yank of lines, words, or characters

P   bring back before cursor

p   bring back after cursor

Find Commands

? finds a word going backwards

/ finds a word going forwards

f finds a character on the line under the cursor going forward

F finds a character on the line under the cursor going backwards

t find a character on the current line going forward and stop one character before it

T find a character on the current line going backward and stop one character before it

; repeat last f, F, t, T

Miscellaneous Commands

. repeat last command

u undoes last command issued

U undoes all commands on one line

xp deletes first character and inserts after second (swap)

J join current line with the next line

^G display current line number

% if at one parenthesis, will jump to its mate

mx mark current line with character x

'x find line marked with character x

NOTE: *Marks are internal and not written to the file.*

Line Editor Mode

Any commands form the line editor **ex** can be issued upon entering line mode.

To enter: type ':'

To exit: press*[return]* or *[esc]*

ex Commands

For a complete list consult the

UNIX Programmer's Manual

READING FILES

copies (reads) filename after cursor in file currently editing

:r filename

WRITE FILE

:w saves the current file without quitting

MOVING

    :#   move to line #

    :$ move to last line of file

SHELL ESCAPE

    executes 'cmd' as a shell command.

    :!'cmd'