

Using the vi Editor

1. **vi filename** opens the vi editor with the file *filename* loaded
2. vi is a mode-oriented editor - that is, it has two modes
 - a. Commands to the editor can be issued only when in **Command mode**
Commands are preceded by the colon, **:**. Common commands are
 - i. **:w** Save(write) the file
 - ii. **:q** Exit (quit) the editor
 - iii. **:wq** write and quit
 - iv. **:q!** Quit the editor without saving the file
 - v. **u** undo the previous change (note, no colon)
 - vi. **/word** Searches forward for the specified word (*?word* searches backwards)
 - vii. **i** go to **insert** (input) mode
 - b. To enter text into a document, you must be in **Insert** (or **Replace**) mode.
 - c. Changing modes
 - i. You enter **Insert** mode by hitting the **insert** key or typing **i** (or hitting the **insert key** on the keyboard) while in command mode
 - ii. You enter **command** mode from input mode by hitting the **esc** key on the keyboard
3. There are many other key combinations available in vi for such functions as
 - a. navigating around the file
 - b. moving the cursor
 - c. finding and replacing text
 - d. executing external commands

What we have described above is sufficient for editing the configuration files we will be dealing with.