More on Linux - vi

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Opening Discussion

- What did we talk about last class?
- You will use the command line a lot in this course. So lets review some of the commands that you talked about two classes ago. You can also log in and "follow along" by doing things with the command line interface.
- Did you discuss the use of ">", "<", and "|" in the command line?

Working From Your Room

- One of the advantages of Linux in the multiuser ability. This is greatly facilitated by the command line interface.
- On the links page I have a link to the "putty executable". This is a program that allows you to connect to Unix machines through either the telnet or the ssh protocol. For these machines use ssh.
- Machine names are like janus00.cs.trinity.edu.

Editing Files

- There are many ways to edit text files on a Linux box and all are basic text editors. On a windows box Notepad is the default text editor. Word typically saves in a binary format that isn't straight text.
- I'm going to show you how to use vi in this class. Other options open to you are ed and emacs. If you are in the lab you can use gvim, xemacs, or gedit.

Two Faces of vi

- vi has two different modes that you can work in. When you start vi you always begin in the command mode. This is the mode that vi gets its power from. Keystrokes in this mode don't get added to the text, they issue different commands.
- The second mode in vi is an edit mode and there are 3 flavors of it: insert, append, and replace.

Commands in vi

- The power of vi comes from the fact that there are many commands that you can use to help with editing files. There are far more commands than any one person really uses. You find a subset that works well for you.
- The keys that change you into edit mode are i, I, a, A, and R. You can probably figure out which or insert, append, and replace.

Other Basics

- Esc - This is the key that you use to leave any of the edit modes and return to the command mode.
- Some very significant commands for command mode are saving and quitting.
  - :w - write to disk
  - :q - quit
  - :wq - write then quit
  - :q! - forced quit without writing

More Commands in vi

- $ - Jump to the end of a line.
- cw - Change a word
- . - Repeat the last command. This could be an insert, append, or replace.
- / - Search for a given string.
- n - repeat the last search.
- :# - Jump to the # line of the file.
- u, ^r - undo and redo.

Copying, Cutting, Pasting

- dd - Delete a line. Can be preceded by number of lines.
- yy - Yank a line. Can be preceded by number of lines.
- p - Paste below the current line.
- P - Paste above the current line.
- In vim you can highlight areas and yank or delete using ^v.

The .exrc File

▌ The way that vi works can be altered by creating and editing a file with the name .exrc in your home directory.

▌ There are many options you can put in your .exrc file. I recommend you have a line with "set showmatch tabstop=4". This will match parentheses and brackets when closed and use a smaller tab for indentation.

▌ As always, man can give you more info.

Minute Essay

▌ What did we talk about today?

▌ Remember that assignment #1 is due Friday. The assignment is basically testing your ability to do some different things in the Linux environment. Also try to read chapter 7.