



Learning the vi and Vim Editors: Text Processing at Maximum Speed and Power

By Arnold Robbins, Elbert Hannah, Linda Lamb

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There's nothing that hard-core Unix and Linux users are more fanatical about than their text editor. Editors are the subject of adoration and worship, or of scorn and ridicule, depending upon whether the topic of discussion is your editor or someone else's.

vi has been the standard editor for close to 30 years. Popular on Unix and Linux, it has a growing following on Windows systems, too. Most experienced system administrators cite *vi* as their tool of choice. And since 1986, this book has been *the* guide for *vi*.

However, Unix systems are not what they were 30 years ago, and neither is this book. While retaining all the valuable features of previous editions, the 7th edition of *Learning the vi and vim Editors* has been expanded to include detailed information on *vim*, the leading *vi* clone. *vim* is the default version of *vi* on most Linux systems and on Mac OS X, and is available for many other operating systems too.

With this guide, you learn text editing basics and advanced tools for both editors, such as multi-window editing, how to write both interactive macros and scripts to extend the editor, and power tools for programmers -- all in the easy-to-follow style that has made this book a classic.

Learning the vi and vim Editors includes:

A complete introduction to text editing with *vi*:

vim's enhancements for programmers, such as syntax highlighting, folding and extended tags

Coverage of three other popular *vi* clones -- *nvi*, *elvis*, and *vile* -- is also included. You'll find several valuable appendixes, including an alphabetical quick reference to both *vi* and *ex* mode commands for regular *vi* and for *vim*, plus an

updated appendix on *vi* and the Internet.

Learning either *vi* or *vim* is required knowledge if you use Linux or Unix, and in either case, reading this book is essential. After reading this book, the choice of editor will be obvious for you too.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Arnold Robbins, an Atlanta native, is a professional programmer and technical author. He has been working with Unix systems since 1980, when he was introduced to a PDP-11 running a version of Sixth Edition Unix. His experience also includes multiple commercial Unix systems, from Sun, IBM, HP and DEC. He has been working with GNU/Linux systems since 1996. He likes his Macintosh laptop, but it has been commandeered by one of his daughters.

Arnold has also been a heavy awk user since 1987, when he became involved with gawk, the GNU project's version of awk. As a member of the POSIX 1003.2 balloting group, he helped shape the POSIX standard for awk. He is currently the maintainer of gawk and its documentation.

O'Reilly has been keeping him busy: He is author and/or coauthor of the bestselling titles: Unix In A Nutshell, Effective awk Programming, sed & awk, Classic Shell Scripting, and several pocket references. Elbert is a professional software engineer and software architect recently finishing a 21-year career in the telcom industry. He wrote a full screen editor in assembler in 1983 as his first professional assignment, and has had special interest in editors since. He loves connecting Unix to anything and once wrote a stream editor program to automate JCL edits for mainframe monthly configurations by streaming mainframeJCL to a stream editor on an RJE connected Unix box.

He loves tinkering with everything Unix and considers any environment incomplete without his suite of Unix work-alike tools and the latest version of vim. He is a Unix Shell specialist, writing entire applications with only the shell.

His telcom honored him with their highest award for money-saving applications that he authored using a set of mainframe screen-scraping tools he wrote himself. They continue to use those applications today. He was also one of three founding team members that brought web 1.0 to the corporate consciousness in his telco position, and his team featured on the cover of CIO Magazine for their innovative and pioneering works.

He also served a brief stint on the original Microsoft NT beta support team in 1992.

He loves bicycling, music, and reading. Today he lives in the Chicago area where he occasionally takes on short term projects and works on personal software products. Linda Lamb is a former employee of O'Reilly Media, where she worked in various capacities, including technical writer, editor of technical books, and marketing manager. She also worked on O'Reilly's series of consumer health books, Patient Centered Guides. **Users Review** **From reader reviews:**

Debbie Brown: Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for all of us. The book Learning the vi and Vim Editors: Text Processing at Maximum Speed and Power was making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The publication Learning the vi and Vim Editors: Text Processing at Maximum Speed and Power is not only giving you much more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship while using book Learning the vi and Vim Editors: Text Processing at Maximum Speed and Power. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

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