



# 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 mainframe JCL 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:**

John Carter: Do you considered one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This Learning the vi and Vim Editors: Text Processing at Maximum Speed and Power book is readable through you who hate those straight word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer associated with Learning the vi and Vim Editors: Text Processing at Maximum Speed and Power content conveys objective easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different such as it. So , do you still thinking Learning the vi and Vim Editors: Text Processing at Maximum Speed and Power is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Steve Bennett: Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the subject Learning the vi and Vim Editors: Text Processing at Maximum Speed and Power suitable to you? The book

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