

The Nano Text Editor

Introduction

Nano is a text editor suited to working in UNIX. It is not as powerful as PC window-based editors, as it does not rely on the mouse, but still has many useful features.

Most nano commands are invoked by holding down the `ctrl` key (that is, the control key), and pressing one of the other keys. In this text, the control key is referred to using `^`. For example, `^X` means "hold down the CTRL key and press the x key". Most of the important commands are listed at the bottom of your screen.

`^G` nano help

Starting nano

To edit a file called *filename*, type `nano filename`.

In nano, you can insert another file:

`^R` read an existing file into nano (inserted at the current cursor position)

`^T` opens a browser that allows you to select a file name from a list of files and directories

Navigation

The usual mouse-based point-and-click method is not supported by nano. Use the **arrow** keys to move around the page in nano.

Other navigation commands:

`^A` move to beginning of line

`^E` move to end of line

`^Y` move down a page

`^V` move up a page

`^_` move to a specific line (`^_ ^V` moves to the top of the file, `^_ ^Y` to the bottom)

`^C` find out what line the cursor is currently on

`^W` search for some text.

When searching, you will be prompted for the text to search for. It searches from the current cursor position, wrapping back up to the top if necessary.

Editing

Insert new text at the current cursor position just by typing the text in.

