

Readline VI Editing Mode Cheat Sheet

Default Keyboard Shortcuts for Bash

Shortcut	Description
<i>Switching to Command Mode:</i>	
ESC	Switch to command mode.
<i>Commands for Entering Input mode:</i>	
i	Insert before cursor.
a	Insert after cursor.
I	Insert at the beginning of line.
A	Insert at the end of line.
c <movement command>	Change text of a movement command <movement command> (see below).
C	Change text to the end of line (equivalent to c\$).
cc or S	Change current line (equivalent to 0c\$).
s	Delete a single character under the cursor and enter input mode (equivalent to c[SPACE]).
r	Replaces a single character under the cursor (without leaving command mode).
R	Replaces characters under the cursor.
v	Edit (and execute) the current command in a text editor (an editor in \$VISUAL and \$EDITOR variables or vi).
<i>Basic Movement Commands (in command mode):</i>	
l or SPACE	Move one character right.
h	Move one character left.
w	Move one word or token right.
b	Move one word or token left.
W	Move one non-blank word right.
B	Move one non-blank word left.
e	Move to the end of the current word.
E	Move to the end of the current non-blank word.
0	Move to the beginning of line.
^	Move to the first non-blank character of line.
\$	Move to the end of line.
%	Move to the corresponding opening/closing bracket (() 's, [] 's and {} 's).
<i>Character Finding Commands (these are also Movement Commands):</i>	
fc	Move right to the next occurrence of c .
Fc	Move left to the previous occurrence of c .
tc	Move right to the next occurrence of c , then one char backward.
Tc	Move left to the previous occurrence of c , then one char forward.
;	Redo the last character finding command.
,	Redo the last character finding command in opposite direction.
 	Move to the n -th column (you may specify the argument n by typing it on number keys, for example, 20).

<i>Deletion Commands:</i>	
x	Delete a single character under the cursor.
X	Delete a character before the cursor.
d <movement command>	Delete text of a movement command <movement command> (see above).
D	Delete to the end of the line (equivalent to d\$).
dd	Delete current line (equivalent to 0d\$).
CTRL-w	Delete the previous word.
CTRL-u	Delete from the cursor to the beginning of line.
<i>Undo, Redo and Copy/Paste Commands:</i>	
u	Undo previous text modification.
U	Undo all previous text modifications on the line.
.	Redo the last text modification.
y <movement command>	Yank a movement into buffer (copy).
yy	Yank the whole line.
p	Insert the yanked text at the cursor (paste).
P	Insert the yanked text before the cursor.
<i>Commands for Command History:</i>	
k	Move backward one command in history.
j	Move forward one command in history.
G	Move to the history line <i>n</i> (you may specify the argument <i>n</i> by typing it on number keys, for example, 15G).
/string or CTRL-r	Search history backward for a command matching <i>string</i> .
?string or CTRL-s	Search history forward for a command matching <i>string</i> (remember that on most machines CTRL-s stops the output to the terminal (CTRL-q starts output) and you might need to change it with stty command).
n	Repeat search in the same direction as previous.
N	Repeat search in the opposite direction as previous.
<i>Completion Commands:</i>	
TAB or CTRL-i or =	List possible completions.
*	Insert all possible completions.
<i>Miscellaneous Commands:</i>	
~	Invert the case of the character under cursor, and move a character right.
#	Prepend # (comment character) to the line and send it to the history list.
-	Inserts the n -th word of the previous command in the current line.
0, 1, 2, ...	Sets the numeric argument.
CTRL-v	Insert a character literally (quoted insert).
CTRL-t	Transpose (exchange) two characters.

Examples and Tips

- Some of the commands take a <movement command>. These commands apply the movement to themselves. For example, **d\$** would use \$ as a movement, which moves the cursor to the end of the line, thus, the whole **d\$** would delete text from the current cursor position to the end of the line. Another example, a command **cfA** would use **fA** as a movement, which finds the next occurrence of the character **A**, thus, the whole command would change the line up to character **A**.
- Use **CTRL-v** to insert character literally, for example, **CTRL-v CTRL-r** would insert CTRL-r in the command line.
- See **man bash**, **man readline**, and built in **bind** command for modifying the default behavior!

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