Working with ed(1)

xhr

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What is ed(1)?

POSIX/Open Group says

"The ed utility is a line-oriented text editor"

Ken Thompson (sitting)-&-Dennis Ritchie at PDP-11 (Source: Wikipedia)

A typical ed(1) session

$ ed

?

help

?

?

?

quit

?

exit

?

bye
?
hello?
?
eat flaming death
?
^C
?
^C
?
^D
? *

So WHY should I learn ed?

Because you can!

Be 1337 @ your next job interview

Before we start

Enable command prompt

ed -p*

Enable error explanations

H

ed(1) has a man page

ed(1) basics

command/edit mode

command/edit mode

Quit with q/Q

Basics - Addressing

Every line has an address

Switch to line *x* with x

Specify address ranges
with x,y

Next line with +

Previous line with –

Show current line number with .=

Command	Action
x	Switch to Line x
x,y	Addresses between x and y
+	Next line
-	Previous line
.=	Show current line
q/Q	Quit/Quit without saving
H	Print error explanations

https://pastebin.com/raw/6z1VVeg2

Basics - Printing

Print current line with p

Print range with x,yp

Print whole file with ,p

Print until EoF with ;p

Print line numbers with n

Command	Action
p	Print line
,p	Print whole file
;p	Print until EoF
x,yp	Print range
n	Print line numbers

https://pastebin.com/raw/6z1VVeg2

Basics - Editing

Undo with u

Insert before current line with

i

Append after current line with a

Delete line with d

Copy line with t

Move line with m

Save with w

Command	Action
u	Undo
i	Insert before
a	Append after
d	Delete
t	Copy
m	Move
w	Write/Save

https://pastebin.com/raw/6z1VVeg2

Advanced commands

Search with /<exp>/

Next hit with //

Step-by-step search with G/<exp>/

Search all with g/<exp>/

Launch shell command with !

Insert shell command output with r !

Send buffer to another cmd as STDIN with w ! <cmd>

Command	Action
/<expr>/	Search
//	Next hit
G/<expr>/	Step-by-step search
g/<expr>/	Search whole file
!	Launch shell cmd
r !	Insert shell output
w !	Send to shell

https://pastebin.com/raw/6z1VVeg2

ed can do much much more

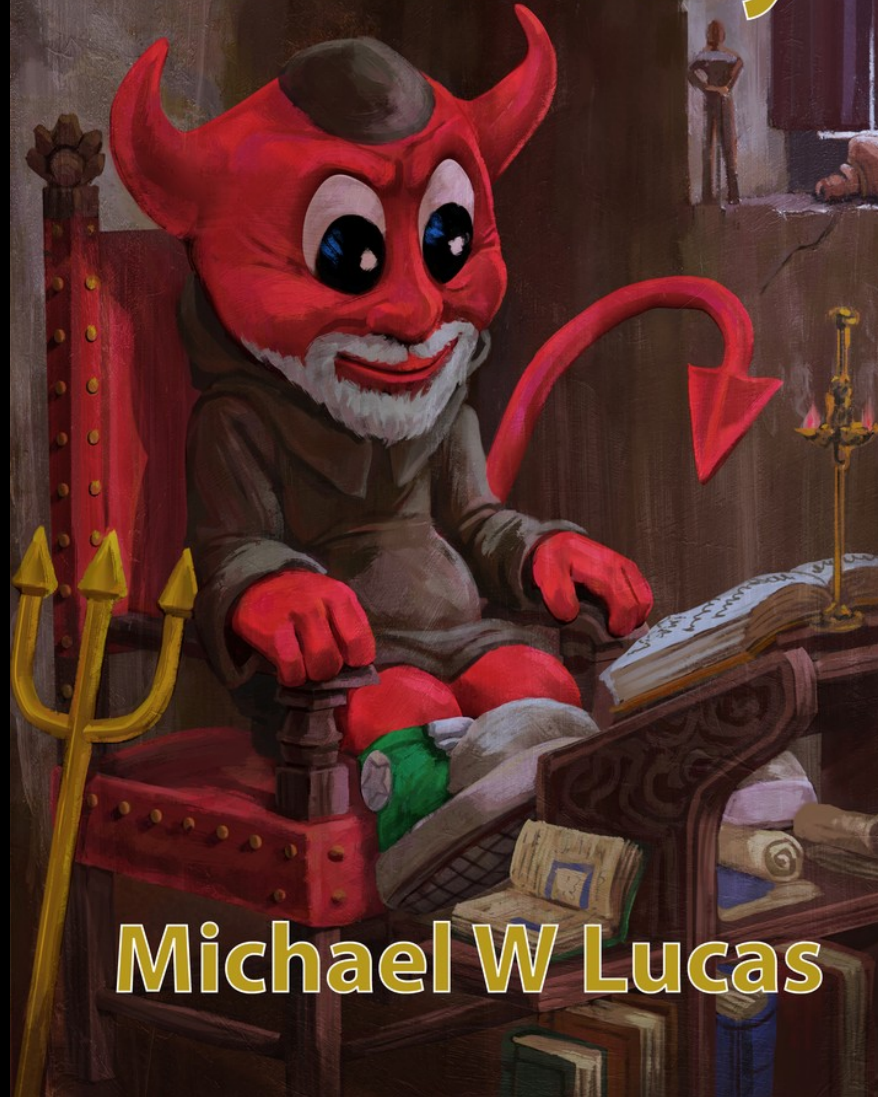| Command	Action
j	Join lines
W	Append to other files
e	Switch files
s//	Substitutions
…	… and much much more

Powerful scripts

regex kunfoo

Ed Mastery

Michael W Lucas

Q & A

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