

Using PICO on Central UNIX

SYNOPSIS

This chapter provides a summary of the basic *pi co* commands. Basic operations such as cursor movement, inserting and deleting text, and searches are covered to give the user a working knowledge of the *pi co* editor. *pi co* is an easy-to-use, full screen editor with on-line help; as a result, not all of its commands are discussed here. *pi co* is also the default editor for the PINE mail interface.

SETTING THE TERMINAL TYPE Before you can start *pi co*, you must tell UNIX what kind of terminal you are using. On most systems, you will have already set your terminal type as part of your login process. However, in case you need it, the commands to tell UNIX the terminal type are:

```
% set term=terminal - type<CR>
```

```
% setenv TERM terminal - type<CR>
```

for C and T shells where “*terminal - type*” is the type of the terminal being used.

```
% set term=terminal - type; export term<CR>
```

for Bourne and Korn shells where “*terminal - type*” is the type of terminal being used.

Substitute the “*terminal - type*” of your terminal in the command above. If you are using communications software on a personal computer, determine which terminal type your software emulates. “**vt100**” is one of the more widely supported. Additional terminal types are listed in **/etc/termcap** file or **/usr/lib/terminfo**.

If you make a mistake in your command(s) for setting your terminal type, you may find that *pi co* will not allow you to proceed.

ENTERING PICO To enter *pi co* type:

```
% pi co filename<CR>
```

where “*filename*” refers to a file to be created or edited.

If the file does not already exist, a new one will be created for you.

pi co has only one mode, the input mode. All commands are given by using control characters and movement through the document is accomplished by using control characters and arrow keys.

The editor has four basic features: paragraph justification, case-insensitive search, a spelling checker, and a file browser.

SPECIAL NOTES ON PICO CONVENTIONS

Within *pi co*, control characters are denoted by preceding the character with a circumflex (^). As such, ^G on the menu indicates that you hold down the control key while pressing the “g” key on the keyboard. In keeping with the rest of the User Guides, the control key is referred to by “**CTRL-**” within this chapter.

pi co also refers to function keys in some of the on-line documentation. These keys apply to a special version of NCSA Telnet which is used where *pi co* was developed. Please ignore those references.

SAVING THE FILE / EXITING PICO

To save the file and exit *pico*, enter the control character

CTRL- X

pico will then ask you

Modified buffer: Save before leaving (y/n)?

An answer of “n” will result in exiting without saving. A response of “y” will result in

File Name to write : filename

At this point you may press return to accept the file name; press “CTRL- G” for help; press “CTRL- C” to abort the write and return to the editing session; or press “CTRL- T” to use the file browser to locate the file you wish to overwrite (move the cursor using the arrow or cursor control keys).

You may also elect to save the file without exiting by entering the control character

CTRL- O

The character is “O”, not zero.

pico will respond with

File Name to write : filename

Respond in the same manner as indicated above while exiting.

ENTERING TEXT

pico is always in input mode. Any text you type will be inserted at the current cursor location with the exception of control characters. Because of this, *pico* behaves much like a word processor. As text reaches the end of a line, *pico* automatically wraps the text on the next line.

If you do not want the line wrap feature, start *pico* with the following option:

% *pico* -w filename<CR>

ABOUT PICO COMMANDS

pico commands are usually control keys, the most common of which appear at the bottom of the screen in a menu. The menus are context sensitive and will vary depending on what you are doing within *pico*.

pico commands are:

Command

CTRL- G
CTRL- F or →
CTRL- B or ←
CTRL- P or ↑
CTRL- N or ↓
CTRL- A
CTRL- E
CTRL- V
CTRL- Y
CTRL- W
CTRL- L
CTRL- D

Explanation of command

Display this help text.
move Forward a character.
move Backward a character.
move to the Previous line.
move to the Next line.
move to the beginning of the current line.
move to the End of the current line.
move forward a page of text.
move backward a page of text.
Search for (where is) text, neglecting case.
Refresh the display.
Delete the character at the cursor position.

<i>CTRL- ^</i>	Mark cursor position as beginning of selected text. NOTE: Setting mark when already set unselects text. NOTE: If you are connecting via a terminal server (modem, terminal lab, or other connection not involving a network card in your workstation), please refer to the special instructions in the next section.
<i>CTRL- K</i>	Cut selected text (displayed in inverse characters). NOTE: The selected text's boundary on the cursor side ends at the left edge of the cursor. So, with selected text to the left of the cursor, the character under the cursor is not selected.
<i>CTRL- U</i>	Uncut (paste) last cut text inserting it at the current cursor position.
<i>CTRL- I</i>	Insert a tab at the current cursor position.
<i>CTRL- J</i>	Format (justify) the current paragraph. NOTE: paragraphs delimited by blank lines or indentation.
<i>CTRL- T</i>	To invoke the spelling checker
<i>CTRL- C</i>	Report current cursor position
<i>CTRL- R</i>	Insert an external file at the current cursor position.
<i>CTRL- O</i>	Output the current buffer to a file, saving it.
<i>CTRL- X</i>	Exit pico, saving buffer.

SPECIAL PICO REQUIREMENTS

Because of the terminal disconnect sequence used on campus, the mark command (*CTRL- ^*) will not function without making a temporary change at the terminal server. The following steps will allow for this need. **NOTE:** Using these steps will change the terminal disconnect sequence for the duration of the session! This section is not needed by those with their own network card.

A. BEFORE YOU LOGIN

While you are at the **CALPOLY>** prompt, enter the command

CALPOLY>*terminal no escape-character*<CR>

This changes the "escape" sequence used to disconnect from " <ESC> *CTRL- ^*" to the <*BREAK*> character. It will remain set to that value until the terminal times out at the **CALPOLY>** prompt or the user enters

CALPOLY>*quit*<CR>

after logging out.

B. IF YOU ARE ALREADY LOGGED IN

If you are already logged into the system, issue the network escape sequence

CTRL- ^ x

This should produce the **CALPOLY>** prompt. While you are at the **CALPOLY>** prompt, enter the command

CALPOLY>*terminal no escape-character*<CR>

This changes the “escape” sequence used to disconnect from “ <ESC> CTRL- ^” to the <BREAK> character.

You may now resume your connection by entering

CALPOLY>*resume*<CR>

If you were already in a full screen application such as *pico*, you will have to refresh the screen by entering

CTRL- L

The “escape” sequence will remain set to that value until the terminal times out at the **CALPOLY>** prompt or the user enters

CALPOLY>*quit*<CR>

after logging out.

NOTE: *CTRL- ^ x* will no longer allow you to disconnect from the system, instead you must issue a <BREAK> character.

ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

Additional information on *pico* may be found on line by entering

% man pico<CR>

or by using the help command (*Ctrl - G*) within PICO.

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NOTES