

# How To: Configure System to Use nano Text Editor

(more details on Linuxize website)

As you get more comfortable using the command line to do configuration tasks in Raspberry Pi, you will find that text files must be created or edited. The default editor has a learning curve, so a much simpler editor is nano. This text editor is easy to use and includes all the basic functionality expected from your basic text editors like Notepad++ or Komodo Edit.

First, check to see if nano is installed on your system:

```
nano --version
```

If this command returns the version number and contact information, then it is safe to say that nano is installed.

If nothing is returned from this command, then you can install nano by typing this command:

```
sudo apt-get install nano
```

On most Linux systems, the default text editor for commands (such as crontab) is set to vim. To use nano as the default text editor, you need to execute two commands to set nano as your default editor.

Execute the following two commands:

```
export EDITOR=nano
```

```
export VISUAL=$EDITOR
```

After running the two commands above, then you can open the crontab as follows:

```
crontab -e
```

If you want more information, I suggest you visit the FAQ page for the nano text editor. It can be found at <https://www.nano-editor.org/dist/latest/faq.html>