

IEEE Standards Interpretation for IEEE Std 1003.1™-2001 IEEE Standard Standard for Information Technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX®)

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Interpretation Request #87

Topic: vi P command **Relevant Sections:** XCU vi

The vi Put from Buffer Before (P) command description is missing the multiline requirements that was added to the Put from Buffer Following (p) command. This causes problem when putting partial multiline text, i.e. like that can be obtained by doing `y/search_text`. Currently TC1 states

Current line: Unchanged.

Current column: If the buffer text is in line mode:

If the buffer text is in character mode:

1. If the buffer is the unnamed buffer, set to the last column on which any portion of the last character from the buffer is displayed.
2. Otherwise, set to the first column on which any portion of the first character from the buffer is displayed.

so for a multiline Put, the current line is to remain unchanged and the cursor is to be placed at the end of the last line inserted. This is means of course that the current line cannot stay unchanged.

So unless this was intended to give Capt Kirk and Mr. Spock a means to fight the latest evil supercomputer, similar wording to the following from the p description needs to be added.

1. If the text in the buffer is from more than a single line, then set to the last column on which any portion of the first character from the buffer is displayed.

Add required wording to correct contradiction in the vi -P description.

Interpretation Response

The standards states the requirements, and conforming implementations must conform to this. However, concerns have been raised about this which are being referred to the sponsor.

Rationale for Interpretation

None.