



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'sensible-editor.1'

\$ man sensible-editor.1

SENSIBLE-EDITOR(1)

General Commands Manual

SENSIBLE-EDITOR(1)

NAME

sensible-editor - launch sensibly chosen text editor

SYNOPSIS

sensible-editor [OPTIONS...]

DESCRIPTION

sensible-editor makes sensible decisions on which editor to call. Programs in Debian can invoke this script to get a good default editor.

sensible-editor looks for an appropriate choice of editor in a series of places, and uses the first candidate that works. It starts by checking environment variables, followed by a variable defined via select-editor, then tries the default editor command defined by the alternatives system, with a series of hard-coded command names as fallbacks.

Variables will be skipped if unset or null, but may include extra whitespace-separated parameters such as a --verbose flag. Once sensible-editor has a candidate commandline, it will try to run it (passing on the arguments it was given as the files to be edited). If this fails because the command couldn't be executed (exit code 126) or was not found (exit code 127), it tries the next candidate.

The specific candidates sensible-editor tries, in order, are:

? \$VISUAL ? see environ(7)

? \$EDITOR ? see environ(7)

? \$SENSIBLE_EDITOR

? \$SELECTED_EDITOR ? see select-editor(1)

? editor ? see editor(1), update-alternatives(1)

? nano(1)

? nano-tiny(1)

? vi(1)

If all of these fail, sensible-editor errors out. This system is designed to make it easy for individual users to set a personal and/or temporary default, overriding the system-wide defaults.

SEE ALSO

sensible-browser(1), sensible-pager(1), select-editor(1), environ(7), editor(1),
update-alternatives(1)

CONFORMING TO

The behavior of sensible-utils under a Debian system is documented in section 11.4 of Debian-Policy, available under /usr/share/doc/debian-policy if debian-policy is installed, or online at <https://www.debian.org/doc/debian-policy/>

Debian

28 Aug 2022

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