sed Command Syntax and Basic Operations

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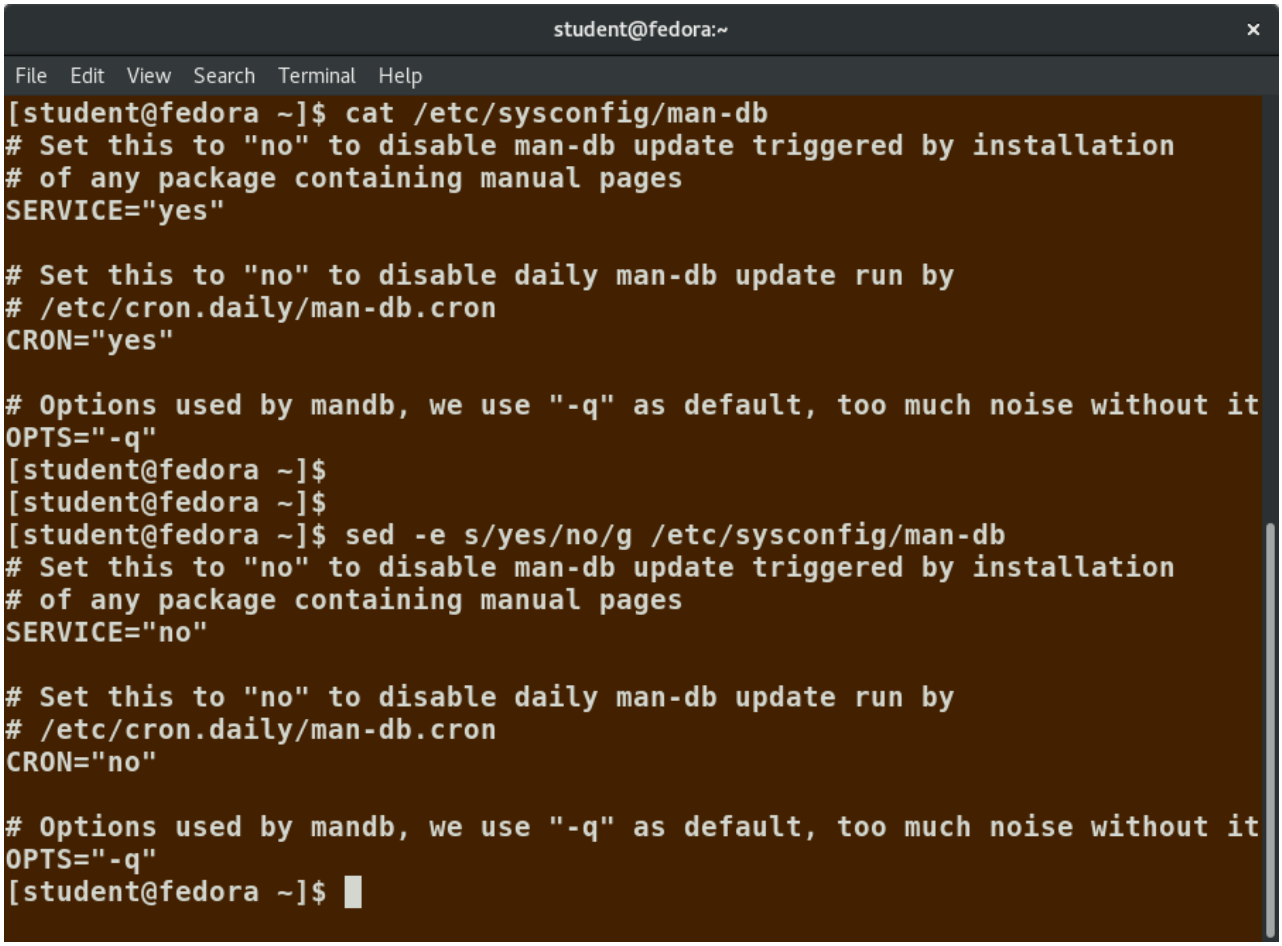
You can invoke **sed** using commands like those listed in the accompanying table.

Command	Usage
sed -e command <filename>	Specify editing commands at the command line, operate on file and put the output on standard out (e.g. the terminal)
sed -f scriptfile <filename>	Specify a scriptfile containing sed commands, operate on file and put output on standard out

The **-e** command option allows you to specify multiple editing commands simultaneously at the command line. It is unnecessary if you only have one operation invoked.



Now that you know that you can perform multiple editing and filtering operations with **sed**, let's explain some of them in more detail. The table explains some basic operations, where **pattern** is the current string and **replace_string** is the new string:

Command	Usage
sed s/pattern/replace_string/ file	Substitute first string occurrence in every line
sed s/pattern/replace_string/g file	Substitute all string occurrences in every line
sed 1,3s/pattern/replace_string/g file	Substitute all string occurrences in a range of lines
sed -i s/pattern/replace_string/g file	Save changes for string substitution in the same file

You must use the **-i** option with care, because the action is not reversible. It is always safer to use **sed** without the **–i** option and then replace the file yourself, as shown in the following example:

```
$ sed s/pattern/replace_string/g file1 > file2
```

The above command will replace all occurrences of **pattern** with **replace_string** in **file1** and move the contents to **file2**. The contents of **file2** can be viewed with **cat file2**. If you approve, you can then overwrite the original file with **mv file2 file1**.

Example: To convert **01/02/… to JAN/FEB/…**

```
sed -e 's/01/JAN/' -e 's/02/FEB/' -e 's/03/MAR/' -e 's/04/APR/' -e 's/05/MAY/' \

    -e 's/06/JUN/' -e 's/07/JUL/' -e 's/08/AUG/' -e 's/09/SEP/' -e 's/10/OCT/' \

    -e 's/11/NOV/' -e 's/12/DEC/'
```

Press ESC to exit the code block at any time