Using sed (Lab) | Coursera

Exercise

Search for all instances of the user command interpreter (shell) equal to **/sbin/nologin** in **/etc/passwd** and replace them with **/bin/bash**. (Do not overwrite **/etc/passwd**.)

Solution

You can see a solution for this exercise here:

To get the output on standard out (terminal screen):

```
$ sed  s/'\/sbin\/nologin'/'\/bin\/bash'/g /etc/passwd
```

or to direct to a file:

```
$ sed  s/'\/sbin\/nologin'/'\/bin\/bash'/g /etc/passwd > passwd_new
```

Note this is kind of painful and obscure, because we are trying to use the forward slash (/) as both a string and a delimiter between fields. Instead, you can do:

```
$ sed s:'/sbin/nologin':'/bin/bash':g /etc/passwd
```

where we have used the colon (**:**) as the delimiter instead (you are free to choose your delimiting character!). In fact, when doing this, we don't even need the single quotes:

```
$ sed s:/sbin/nologin:/bin/bash:g /etc/passwd
```

works just fine.