

echo

coursera.org/learn/linux-tools-for-developers/supplement/xNev3/echo

echo displays (echoes) text. It is used simply, as in:

```
$ echo string
```

echo can be used to display a string on standard output (i.e. the terminal) or to place in a new file (using the > operator) or append to an already existing file (using the >> operator).

The **-e** option, along with the following switches, is used to enable special character sequences, such as the newline character or horizontal tab.

- **\n** represents newline
- **\t** represents horizontal tab

echo is particularly useful for viewing the values of environment variables (built-in shell variables). For example, **echo \$USERNAME** will print the name of the user who has logged into the current terminal.

The following table lists **echo** commands and their usage:

Command	Usage
echo string > newfile	The specified string is placed in a new file
echo string >> existingfile	The specified string is appended to the end of an already existing file
echo \$variable	The contents of the specified environment variable are displayed