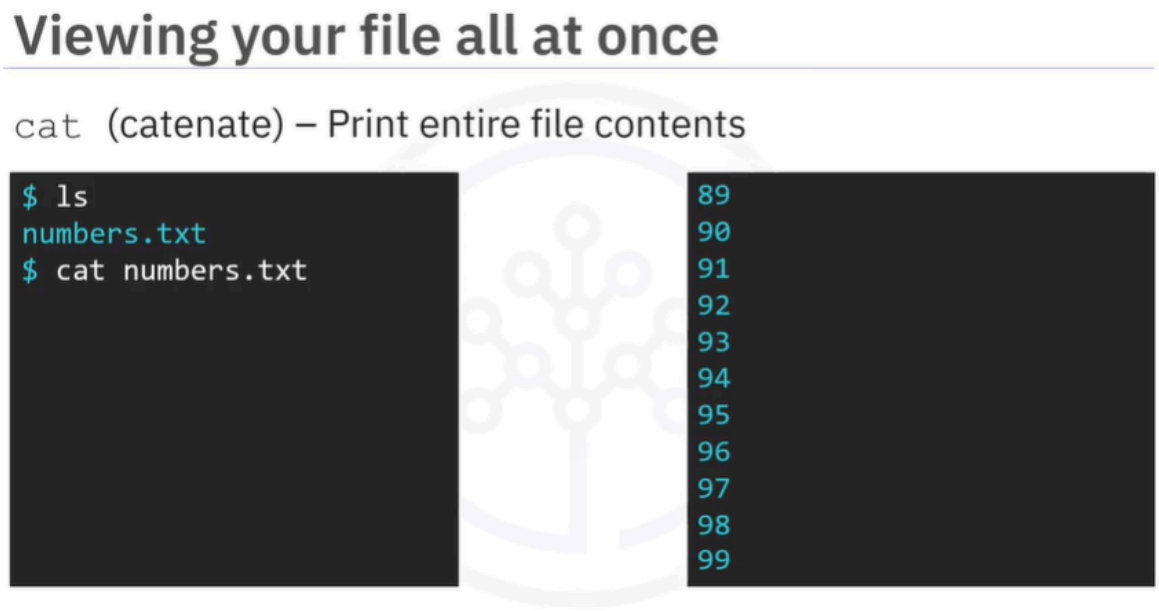
Viewing File Content



- There are several useful commands for viewing file content. To begin with, you can use the cat command to print the entire file to standard output. Suppose your current directory contains a single file called numbers.txt, which you can see by entering the LS command. To print the contents of this file to standard output, you can type cat numbers.txt, which produces the output shown here consisting of the numbers 89 through to 99. You can see that the output takes up the entire terminal window. The file is much longer than the twelve lines you see here. For this reason, you might not always want to use cat to view contents. Thankfully, there are alternative commands for cases such as these.

Viewing your file page-by-page

`more` – Print file contents page-by-page

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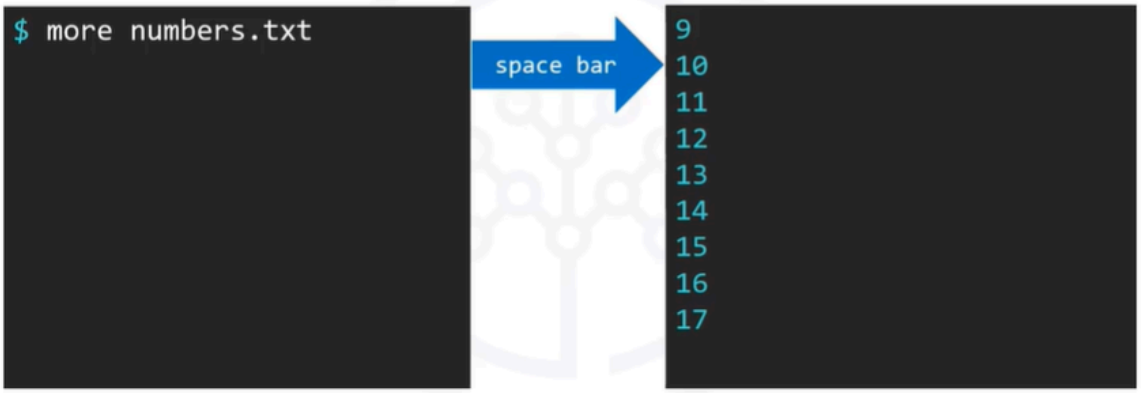
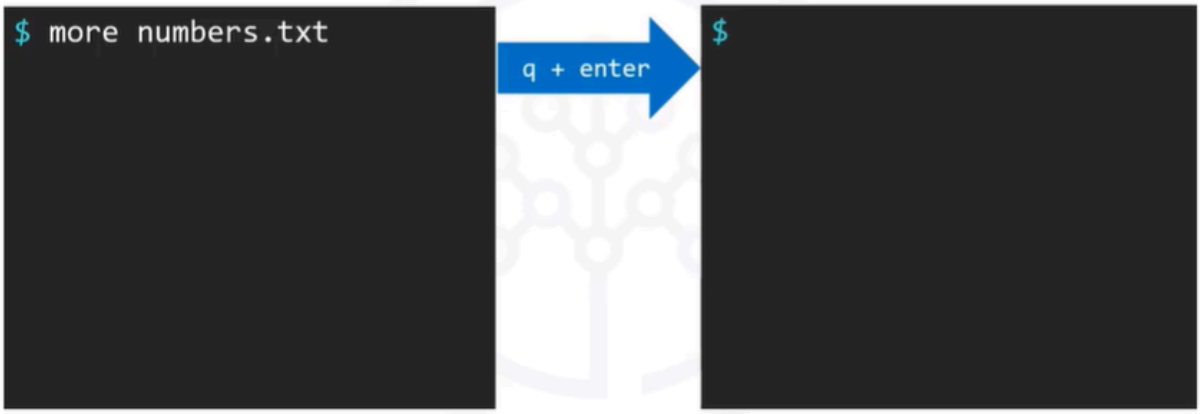


Viewing your file page-by-page

`more` – Print file contents page-by-page



- The more command allows you to view a file's content in a page by page format. By entering more numbers.txt, you see the numbers 0-8 on page 1 as shown. By page we just mean the current terminal window. If you expand your terminal window vertically, you also increase the page size. When you click the space bar, you will see the next page which displays the numbers 9-17. Entering Q quits the more program and returns you to the command prompt.

Viewing the first 10 lines

`head` – Print first 10 lines of file

```
$ head numbers.txt
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
```

Viewing the first N lines

`head` – Print first N lines of file

```
$ head -n 3 numbers.txt
0
1
2
```

Viewing the last 10 lines

`tail` – Print last 10 lines of file

```
$ tail numbers.txt
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
```

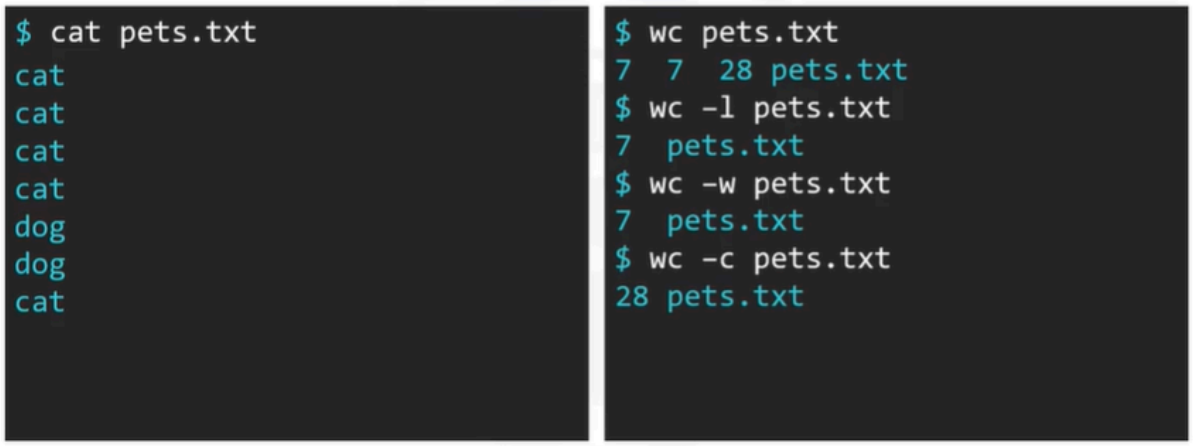
Viewing the last N lines

`tail` – Print last N lines of file

```
$ tail -n 3 numbers.txt
97
98
99
```

Counting lines, words, and characters

`wc` (word count) – Count characters, words, lines



- You can use the WC command to count the number of characters, words, or lines in your file. Imagine you have a file called pets.txt. Entering cat pets.txt shows that the file contains the word cat or the word dog on each line.
- By entering WC pets.txt, you get the result 7 7 28 pets.txt. Which means that your file contains 7 lines, 7 words, and 28 characters. But 7 times 3 is 21 so why does WC see 28 characters?
    - Because it also counts new line characters. You can't see them there, but there are seven new line characters one of which represents end of file.
- To view only line count, you can use the -l option which returns 7 pets.txt. Similarly to view only word count, you can use the -w option, and to view only character count, you can use the -c option.