

Week Report 6

Wildcards

* Wildcard

The * (asterisk) wildcard matches from 0 to any number of characters.

- Examples:
 - List all the text file in a directory
 - `ls *.txt`
 - List all the files that start with the word file
 - `ls file.*`
 - Copy all the mp4 files
 - `cp Downloads/*mp4 ~/Videos/Movies/`

? Wildcard

The ? (question mark) wildcard matches precisely one character

- Examples:
 - List all hidden files
 - `ls .??*`
 - List all hidden files in the parent directory
 - `ls ../.??*`
 - List all the files that have a 3 letter file extension
 - `ls *.???`

☐ Wildcard

☐ (brackets) wildcard match a single character in a range. Add the exclamation mark to reverse the match.

- Examples:
 - Match all files that have a vowel after letter f
 - `ls f[aeiou]*`
 - Match all files whose name has at least one number
 - `ls *[0-9]*`
 - Match all files whose name begins with any of these two sets of characters: letters from a-f or p-z
 - `ls [a-fp-z]*`

Brace Expansion

Brace expansions {} is not a wildcard but has another feature of bash that allows you to generate arbitrary strings to use with commands

- Examples:
 - Create a whole directory structure in a single command

- `mkdir -p music/{jazz,rock}/{mp3files,videos,oggfiles}/new{1..3}`
- Create a N number of files
 - `touch website{1..5}.html`
- Remove multiple files in a single directory
 - `rm -r {dir1,dir2,dir3,file.txt,file.py}`