

Notes 4: Handling Text Files

Cat

- The cat command is used for displaying the contents of a file. It is short for concatenate. There are many options for the cat command.
 - EX: "cat -n todo.md" displays the content of a file with line numbers
 - EX: "cat -b todo.md" excludes empty lines

Tac

- The tac command is used for displaying the content of a file in reverse order. It uses the same options as cat.

Head

- The head command displays the top N number of lines of a given file. The default is the first 10 lines.
 - EX: "head -n 5 todo.md" displays the first 5 lines
 - EX: "head -n 1 *.cvs" displays the first line of the files containing .cvs

Tail

- The tail command displays the last N number of lines of a given files. The default is the last 10 lines. It uses the same options as head.

Cut

- The cut command is used to extract a specific section of each line of a file and display it to the screen.
 - EX: "cut -d ':' -f1 /etc/passwd" will display a list of all the users in your system
 - EX: "cut -d ':' -f1,7 /etc/passwd" will display a list of all the users in your system with their login shell

Paste

- The paste command is used for joining files horizontally in columns
 - EX: "paste users.lst todo.md"

Sort

- The sort command is used for sorting files via alphabetically, reverse order, number, etc.
- EX: "sort -o users.txt" sorts file and saves the output as a new file
- EX: "sort -r users.txt" sort file in reverse order

WC

- The wc command is used for printing the number of lines, characters, and bytes in a file
 - EX: "wc -m users.txt" displays the number of characters in a file

- EX: "wc -l users.txt" displays the number of lines in a file
- EX: "wc -w users.txt" displays the number of words in a file

TR

- The tr command is used for translating or deleting characters from standard output
 - EX: "cat file.txt | tr '.,','" translates period ot comma
 - EX: "cat program.py | tr "[:space:]" "\t" translates white space into tabs

Diff

- The diff command compares files and displays differences between them
 - EX: "diff cars.csv carts-backup.csv" displays the difference between the two files

Grep

- Grep is used to search text in a given file
 - EX: "grep 'dracula' dracula.txt" search for the word dracula in dracula.txt There are many options, here are two:

Options	Explanation
-i	enables case insensitivity
-n	displays line number for every line matched