Linux tutorial: basic apps and utilities

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File Transfer

Most popular file transfer protocols used in LINUX: **SCP** and **SFTP**

Both are secure and use underlying SSH protocol (Secure Shell (SSH) is a cryptographic network protocol for operating network services securely over an *unsecured* network. SSH provides a secure channel over an unsecured network in a client-server architecture, connecting an SSH client application with an SSH server. [1]). Version 2 of SSH is now used. Default port: 22

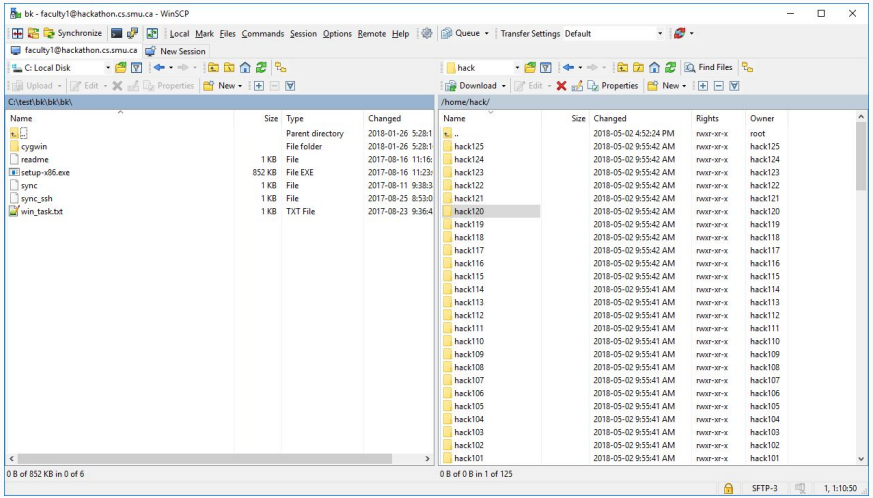
The SCP is a network protocol, which supports file transfers between hosts on a network. SCP uses SSH for data transfer and uses the same mechanisms for authentication, thereby ensuring the authenticity and confidentiality of the data in transit. A client can send (upload) files to a server, optionally including their basic attributes (permissions, timestamps). Clients can also request files or directories from a server (download). SCP runs over TCP port 22 by default [2]

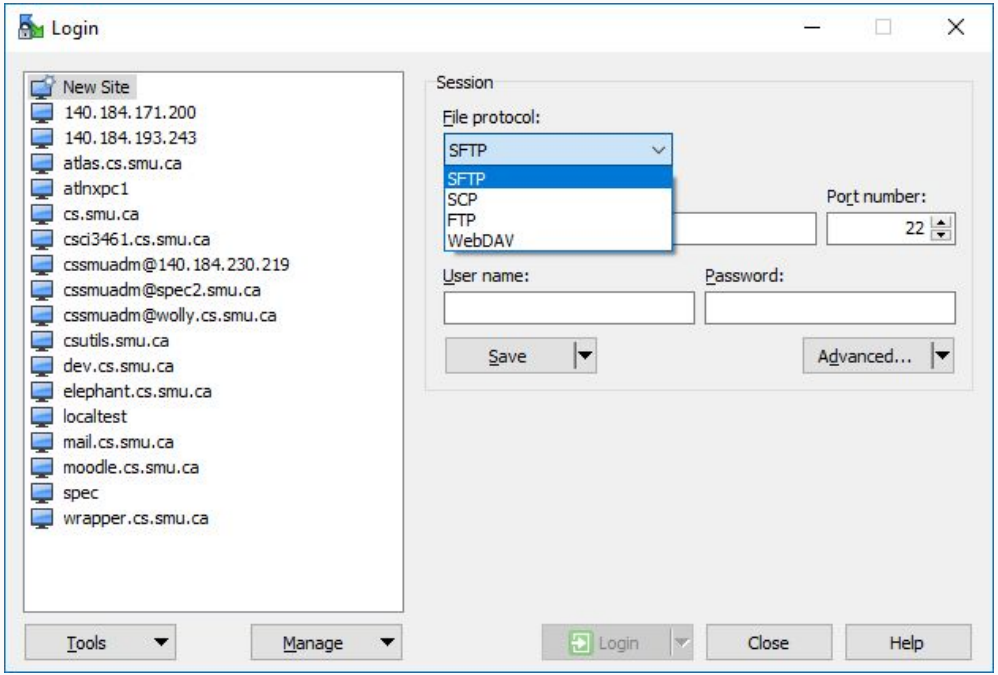
Compared to the SCP protocol, which only allows file transfers, the SFTP (SSH File Transfer Protocol) allows for a range of operations on remote files which make it more like a remote file system protocol. An SFTP client's extra capabilities include resuming interrupted transfers, directory listings, and remote file removal.[3] Based on SSH, also uses port 22 by default.

SFTP != FTP over SSH! It’s a different protocol! Use SFTP where you can

File Transfer

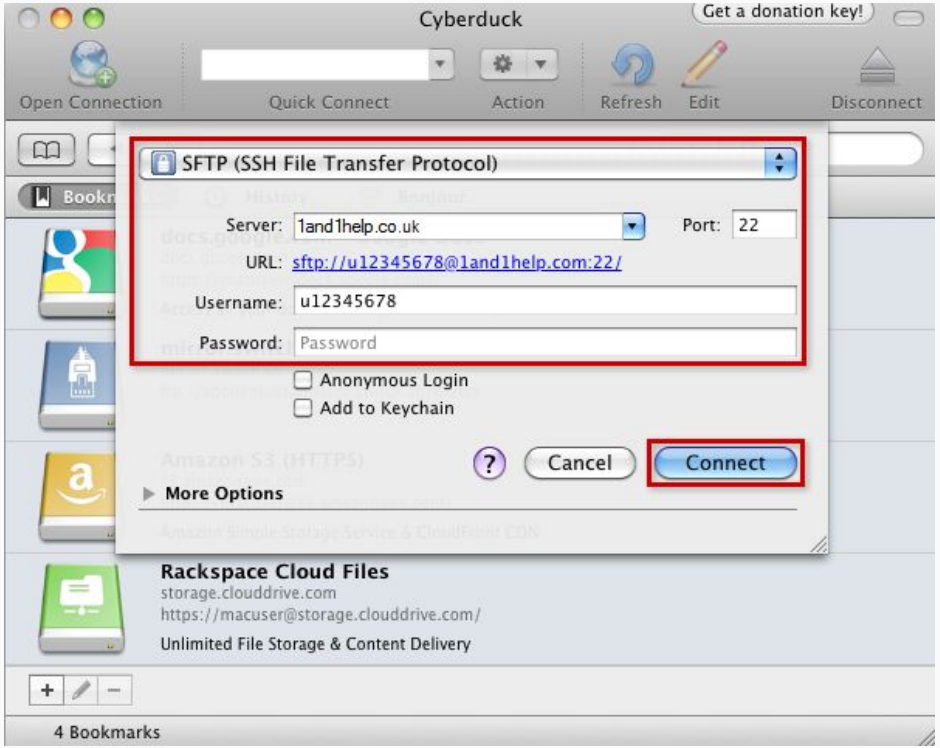
WinSCP: most popular SCP/SFTP client for Windows





File Transfer

For MAC OS users: Cyberduck



[PL1]

File Transfer

scp

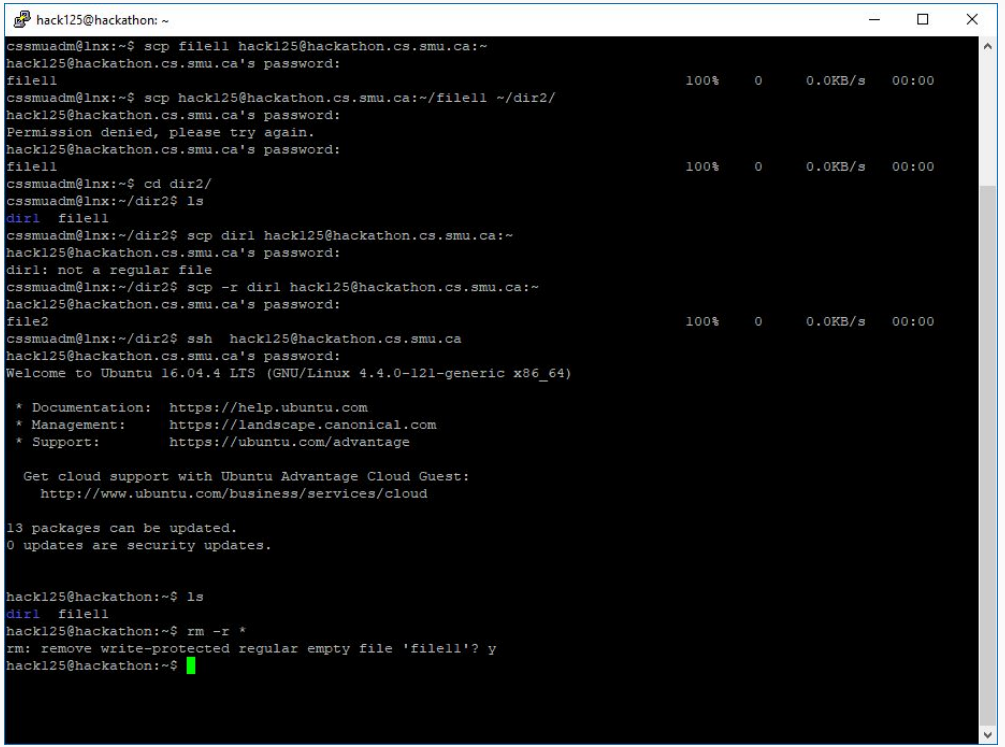
Use it like cp

scp file username@server:DIR

OR

scp username@server:DIR /TARGET_DIR

USE FLAG -r FOR COPYING FOLDERS



File Transfer

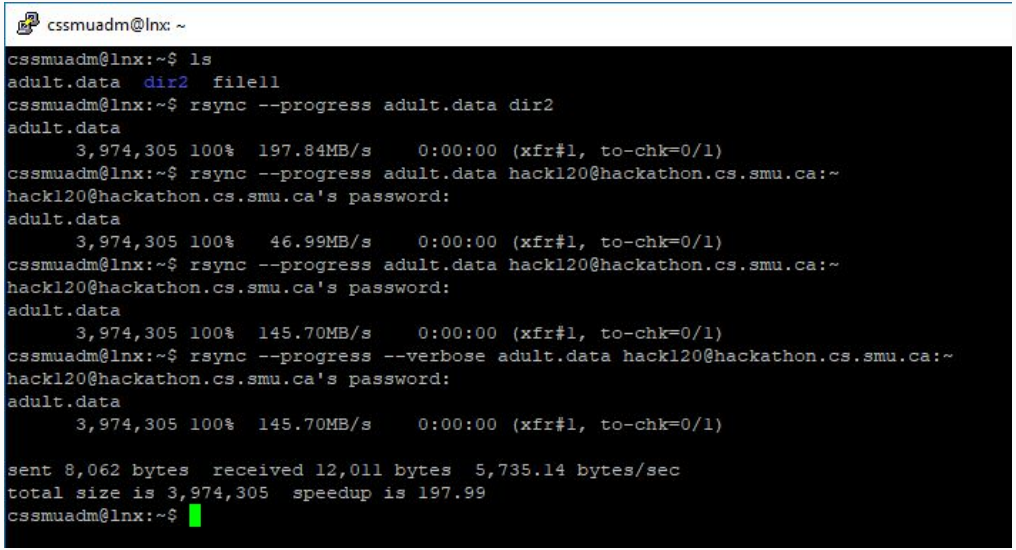
rsync

You can use it instead of both cp and scp. Also used for backups. Does not transmit unnecessary chunks as copies CHANGES (calculates checksums of blocks of file and compares them)

Useful flags:

- --progress
- --verbose

See man rsync for more details



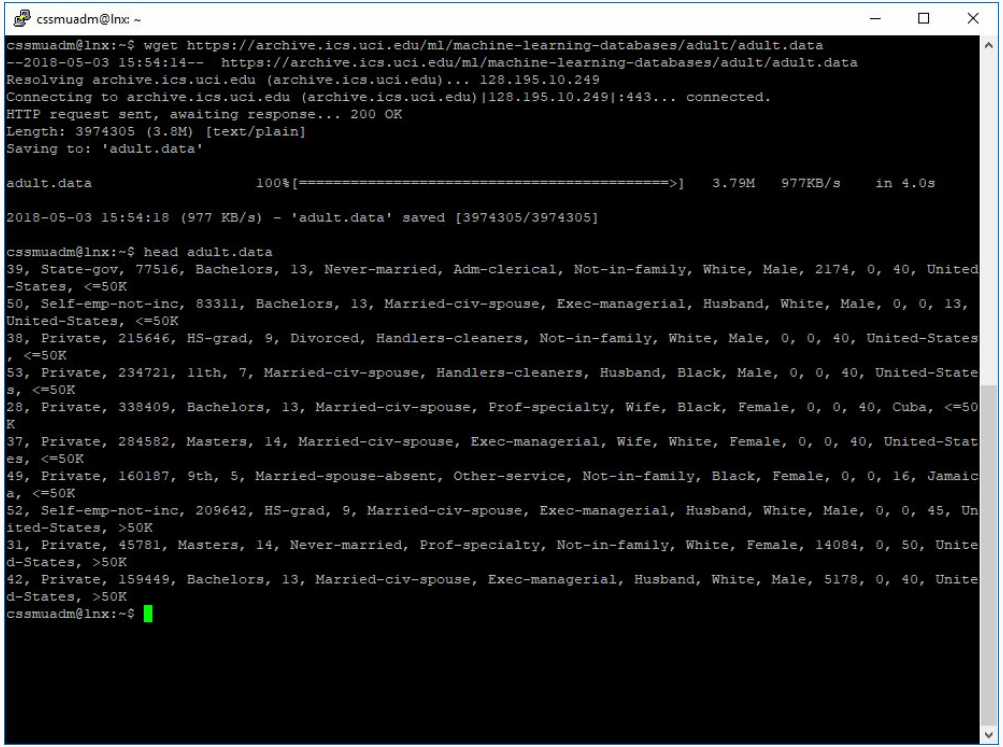
File Transfer

wget

wget link

Instead of downloading some files to your PC first then to server, just use wget where possible

See man wget for options/flags. But usually works fine without flags



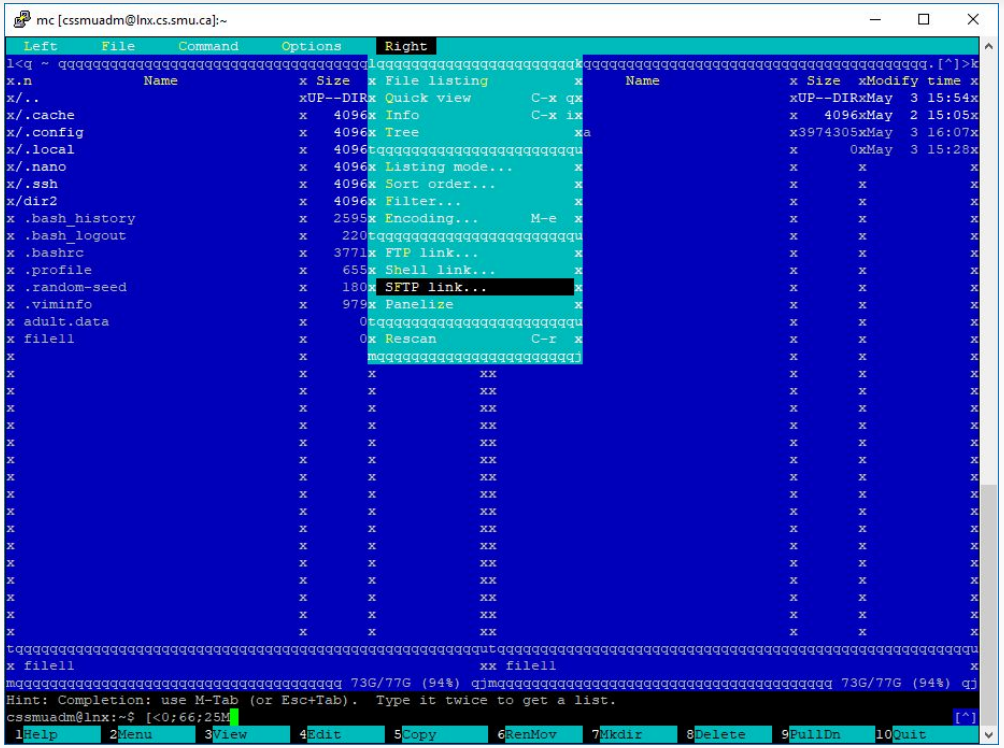
mc

mc - for those who do not feel comfortable with command line at all.

DOS-style file manager (like NC, or Total Commander), very simple text editor (mcedit), etc.

Supports SFTP as well

May not be installed on some systems

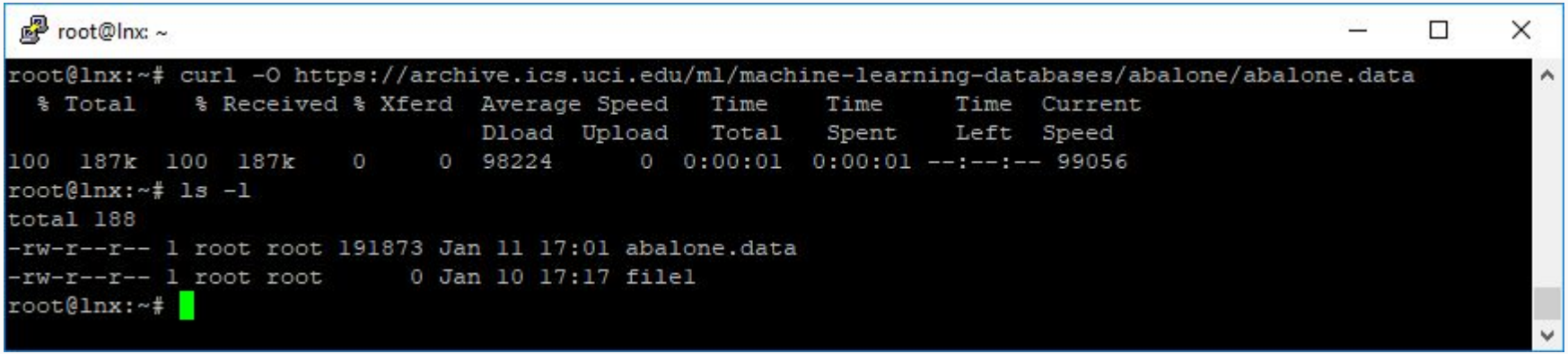


Exercise

1. Download any dataset from https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets.html using wget to your home folder at lnx.cs.smu.ca (e.g., https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/machine-learning-databases/abalone/abalone.data)
2. Copy it from lnx.cs.smu.ca to your desktop using WinSCP (or other software)
3. Copy it from lnx.cs.smu.ca to dev.cs.smu.ca using either scp or rsync command
4. ssh to dev.cs.smu.ca from lnx.cs.smu.ca and check if the file is there

curl

curl - can be used for downloading files as well with -O option



curl again

curl - easy way to test RESTful web services (supports various HTTP methods)

```
root@lnx: ~
root@lnx:~# curl -X POST -d "title=hi MCDA" -d "body=use curl!"  https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts
{
  "title": "hi MCDA",
  "body": "use curl!",
  "id": 101
}root@lnx:~# curl -X GET https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts/1
{
  "userId": 1,
  "id": 1,
  "title": "sunt aut facere repellat provident occaecati excepturi optio reprehenderit",
  "body": "quia et suscipit\nsuscipit recusandae consequuntur expedita et cum\nreprehenderit molestiae ut ut
ostrum rerum est autem sunt rem eveniet architecto"
}root@lnx:~#
```

```
root@lnx: /var/data
root@lnx:/var/data# curl -X POST -H "Content-Type: application/json" -d '{"field1":"value1","field2":"value2"}' https://jsonplac
holder.typicode.com/posts
{
  "field1": "value1",
  "field2": "value2",
  "id": 101
}root@lnx:/var/data#
```

Exercise

Send POST request to https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts using curl with the following fields both in Json format and as simple POST parameters:

- fname: your first name
- lname: your last name
- course: MCDA5570

Archivers

3 types of archives:

- Archive only with no compression (e.g. tar, cpio, ar)
- Compress only (e.g., bzip2, gzip, lzip)
- Compress + archive (7z, zip, rar, jar, war, etc.)

Archivers

tar (tarballs)

- DOES NOT COMPRESS FILES, just “collects” them to 1 file - tarball

[link]

To archive files:

- tar -cf arc.tar file1 file2 file3
  - Where -c means COMPRESS
  - f means filename of archive

To extract files:

- tar -xvf arc.tar
  - Where -x means eXtract
  - f means tarball Filename
  - v means Verbose (optional)

```
cssmuadm@lnx: ~/untar
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ ls
adult.data  dir2  file11
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ tar -cf arc.tar *
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ file arc.tar
arc.tar: POSIX tar archive (GNU)
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ mkdir untar
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ mv arc.tar untar/
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ cd untar/
cssmuadm@lnx:~/untar$ tar -xvf arc.tar
adult.data
dir2/
dir2/dir1/
dir2/dir1/file2
dir2/file11
dir2/adult.data
file11
cssmuadm@lnx:~/untar$ ls -l
total 11676
-rw-rw-r-- 1 cssmuadm cssmuadm 3983360 May  4 13:09 adult.data
-rw-rw-r-- 1 cssmuadm cssmuadm 7966720 May  4 13:12 arc.tar
drwxrwxr-x 3 cssmuadm cssmuadm    4096 May  3 16:07 dir2
-r--rw---- 1 cssmuadm cssmuadm       0 May  2 15:02 file11
cssmuadm@lnx:~/untar$
```

Archivers

gzip

- Compresses single files using “deflate” algorithm

To compress files:

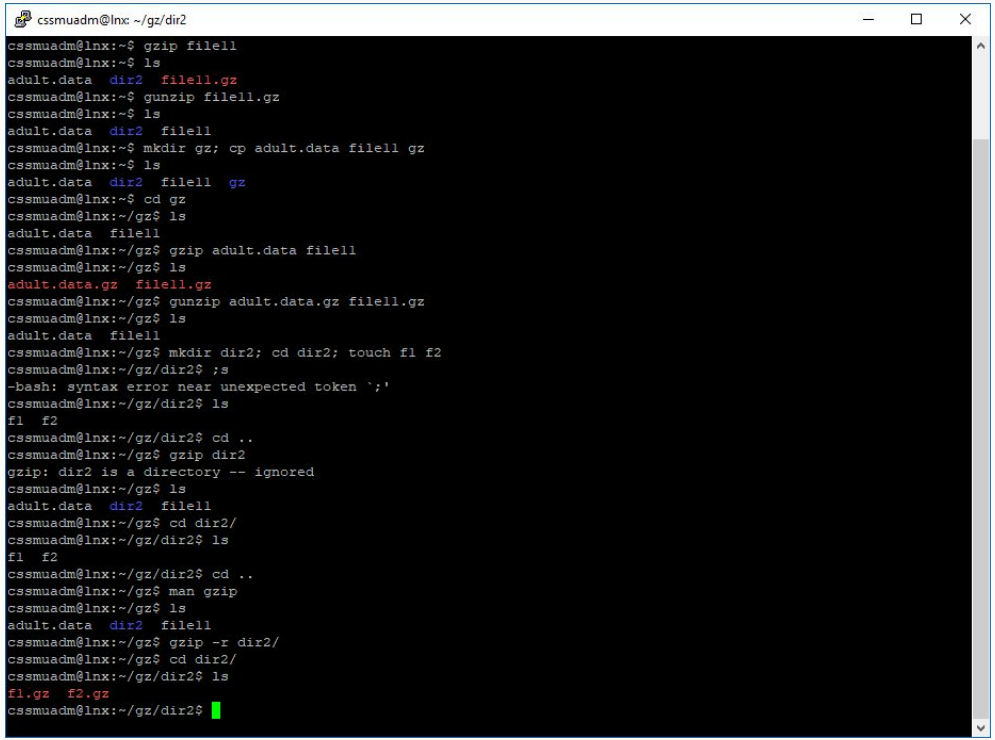
gzip file1

To extract files:

gunzip file1.gz

Useful flags: -r : recursively

!Not convenient to compress/extract separate files!



Archivers

tar + gzip

To archive files with gzip compression:

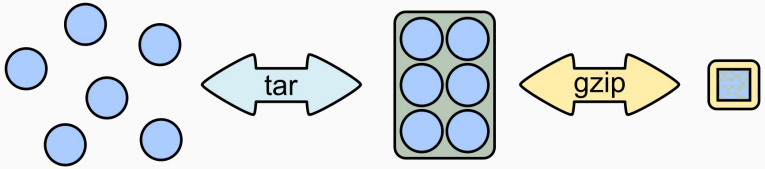
tar -zcf file1 file2 file3

Where -z means compress using gzip

To extract files:

- tar -zxf arc.tgz

.tgz = .tar.gz




```
cssmuadm@lnx: ~/arc2
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ tar -cf a1.tar *
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ file a1.tar
a1.tar: POSIX tar archive (GNU)
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ ls
a1.tar  adult.data  dir2  file11
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ mkdir arc1; mv a1.tar arc1
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ cd arc1/
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc1$ gzip a1.tar
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc1$ ls
a1.tar.gz
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc1$ file a1.tar.gz
a1.tar.gz: gzip compressed data, was "a1.tar", last modified: Fri May  4 13:57:55 2018, from Unix
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc1$ gunzip a1.tar.gz
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc1$ ls
a1.tar
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc1$ tar -xf a1.tar
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc1$ ls
a1.tar  adult.data  dir2  file11
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc1$ cd ..
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ tar -zcf arc.tar.gz *
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ ls
adult.data  arc.tar.gz  arc1  dir2  file11
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ file arc.tar.gz
arc.tar.gz: gzip compressed data, last modified: Fri May  4 13:59:39 2018, from Unix
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ mkdir arc2; mv arc.tar.gz arc2
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ cd arc2
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc2$ ls
arc.tar.gz
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc2$ cp arc.tar.gz arc1.tar.gz
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc2$ tar -zxf arc.tar.gz
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc2$ ;s
-bash: syntax error near unexpected token `;'
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc2$ ls
adult.data  arc.tar.gz  arc1  arc1.tar.gz  dir2  file11
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc2$ gunzip arc1.tar.gz
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc2$ ls
adult.data  arc.tar.gz  arc1  arc1.tar  dir2  file11
cssmuadm@lnx:~/arc2$
```

Archivers

bzip2

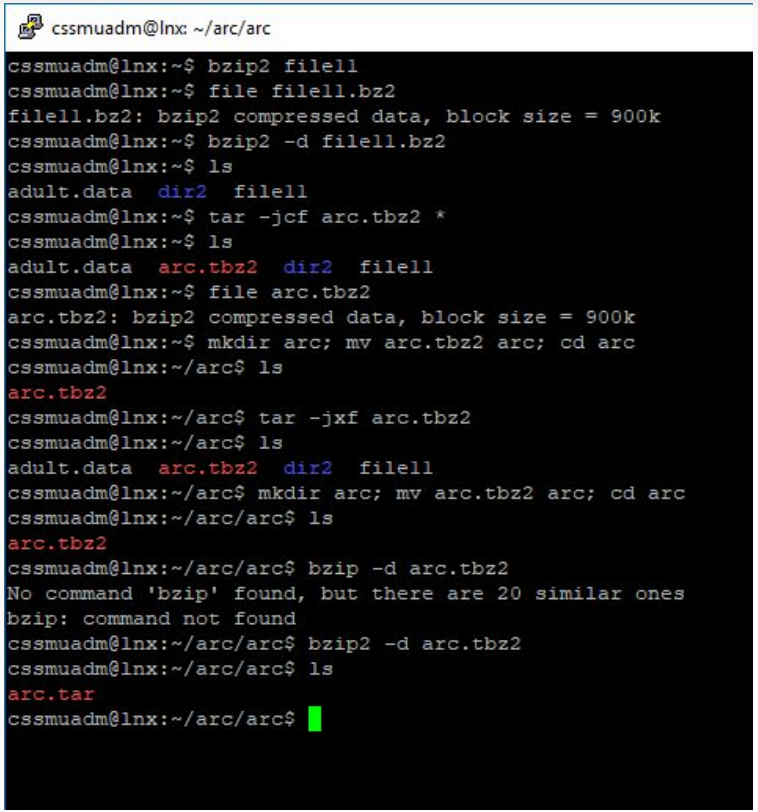
Uses Burrows–Wheeler transform for compression

- bzip2 file1 (compress file)
- bzip2 -d file1.xz (extract file with -d flag)

With tar:

- tar -jcf arc.tbz2 file1 file2 file2
  - Where -j means compress files with bzip2
- tar -jxf arc.tbz2

.tbz2 = .tar.bzip2 = .tbz = .tb2

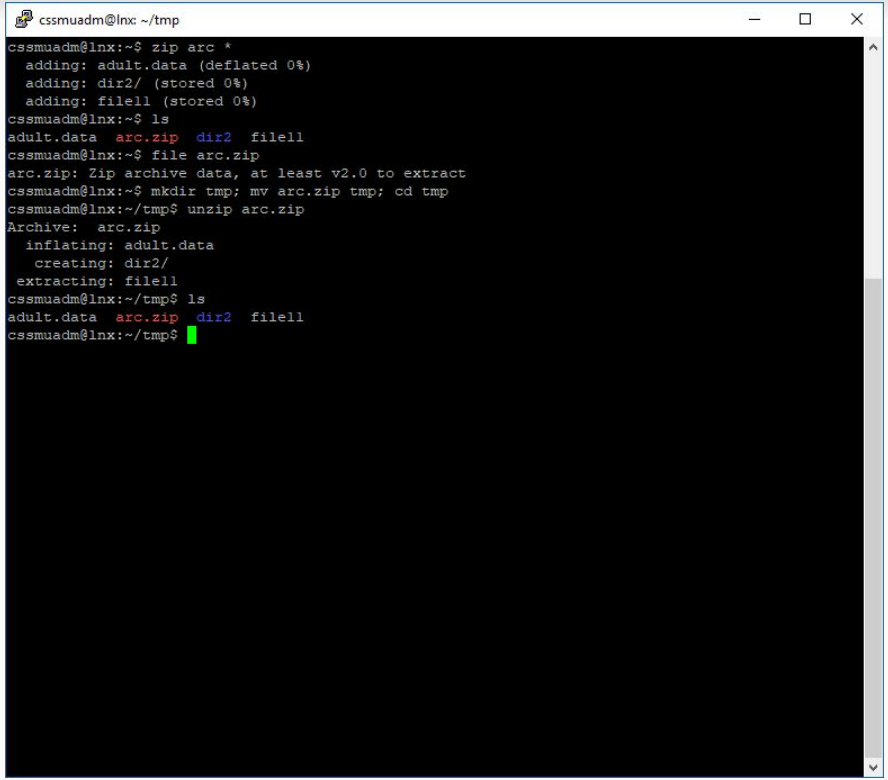


Archivers

zip

Uses different algorithms to compress files (usually “deflate” as gzip).

- zip arc file1 file2 file3 (compress and archive files, where arc is a name of archive)
- unzip arc .zip (extract files)



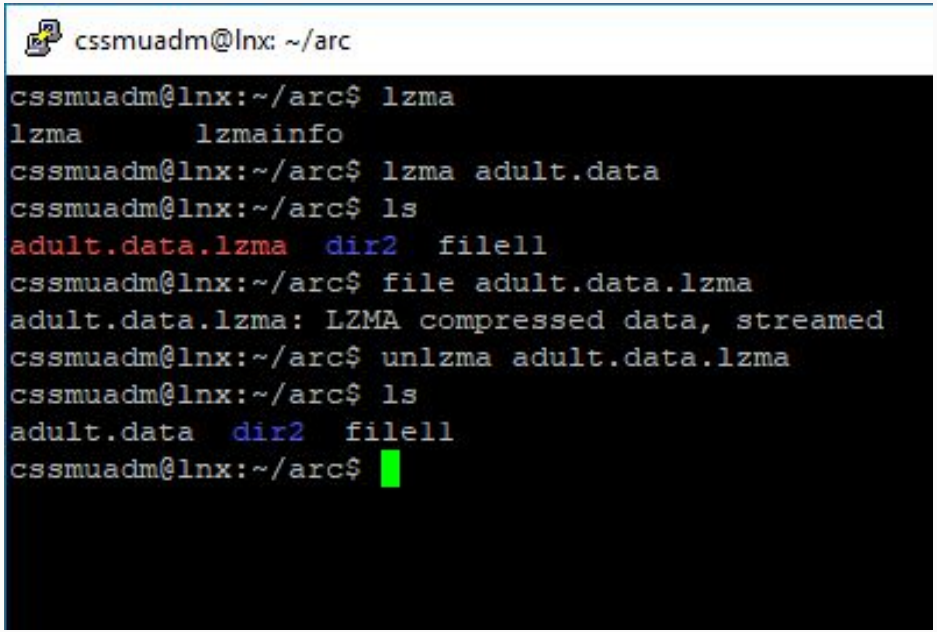
Archivers

lzma

Uses Lempel–Ziv–Markov chain algorithm to compress files (as 7zip).

- lzma file1 (compress file)
- unlzma file1.lzma (extract file)

.tbz2 = .tbz = .tar.lzma = .tlz



Archivers

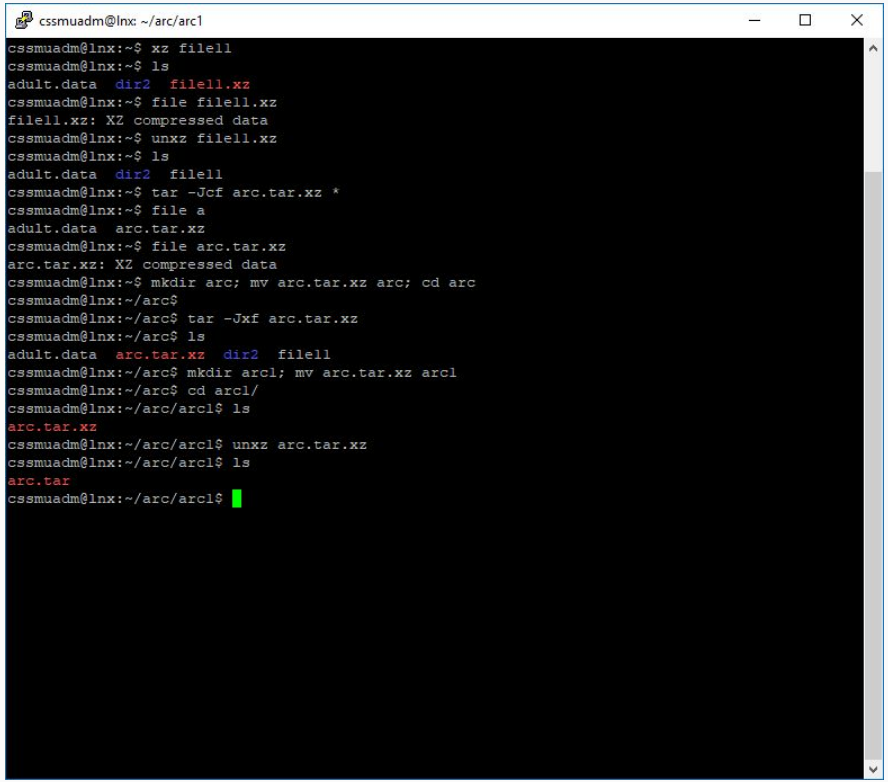
xz

xz is a compression program and file format. Uses LZMA/LZMA2 compression algorithms.

- xz file1 (compress file)
- unxz file1.xz (extract file)

With tar:

- tar -Jcf arc.tar.xz file1 file2 file2
  - Where -J means compress files with xz
- tar -Jxf arc.tar.xz



Archivers

Miscellaneous:

- For .7zip use p7zip (usually not a part of default set of software)
- For .jar and .war use jar
- For .rar use unrar (usually not a part of default set of software)

Exercise

Two groups: one group compresses binary files, another group - text files

1. Compress /bin (GROUP 1) and /var/data (GROUP 2) folder with tar using different flags for archiving (j/J/z)
2. Compare sizes of resulting archives. Which option gives better compression?

Working with text data

cat

Outputs contents of text file(s) to terminal.

Good for small files. Do not use with large files or binary files

```
cssmuadm@lnx: ~
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ cat test.txt

Zagreb [US Consulate General]     Yugoslavia
Zanzibar                          Tanzania
Zurich [US Consulate General]     Switzerland

cssmuadm@lnx:~$
```

[link]

Working with text data

head/tail

output the first/last part of text files

Number of lines to output may be specified after hyphen (e.g., - 10)

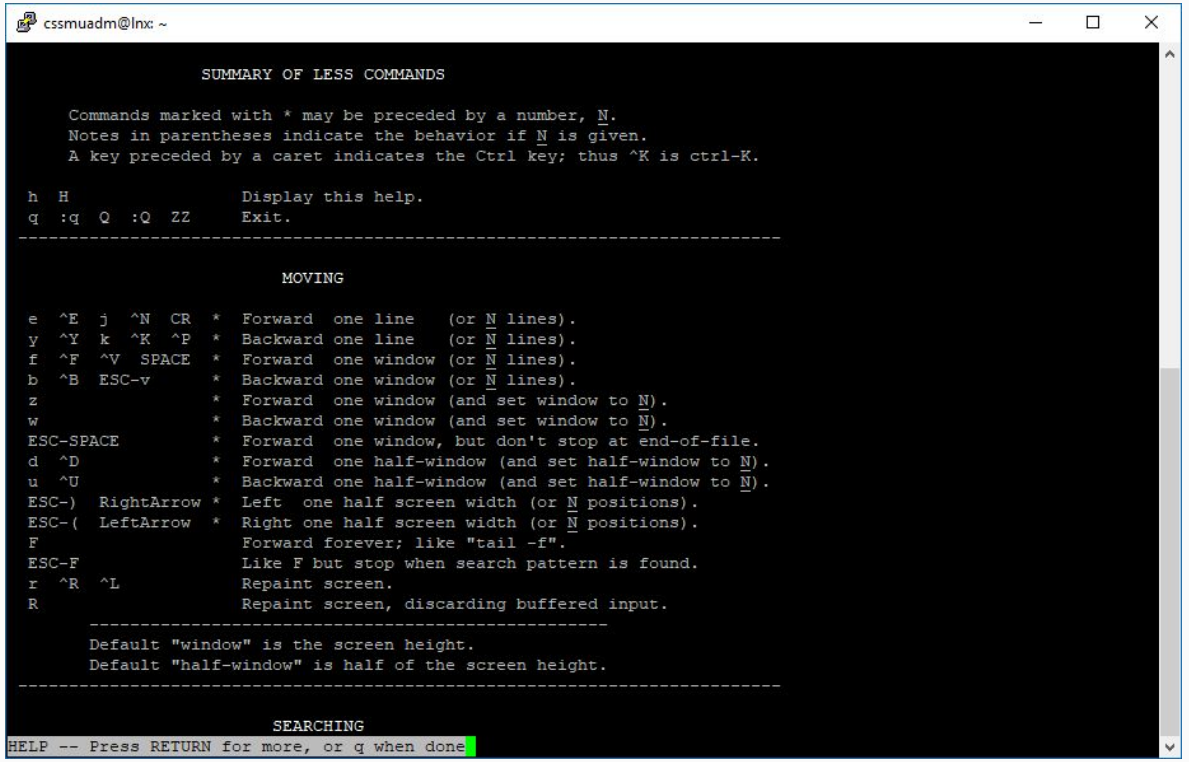
```
cssmuadm@lnx: ~
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ head -5 world192.txt
****The Project Gutenberg Edition of THE WORLD FACTBOOK 1992****
******This file should be named world92.zip or world92.txt******

Corrected EDITIONS of our etexts get a new NUMBER, world921.txt.
VERSIONS based on separate sources get new LETTER, world92a.txt.
cssmuadm@lnx:~$ tail -10 world192.txt
  (Isla de la Juventud)
Yucatan Channel                 Atlantic Ocean
Yugoslavia                      Bosnia and Hercegovina; Croatia;
                                Macedonia; Serbia and Montenegro;
                                Slovenia

Zagreb [US Consulate General]   Yugoslavia
Zanzibar                        Tanzania
Zurich [US Consulate General]   Switzerland

cssmuadm@lnx:~$
```

Working with text data

less

less textfile

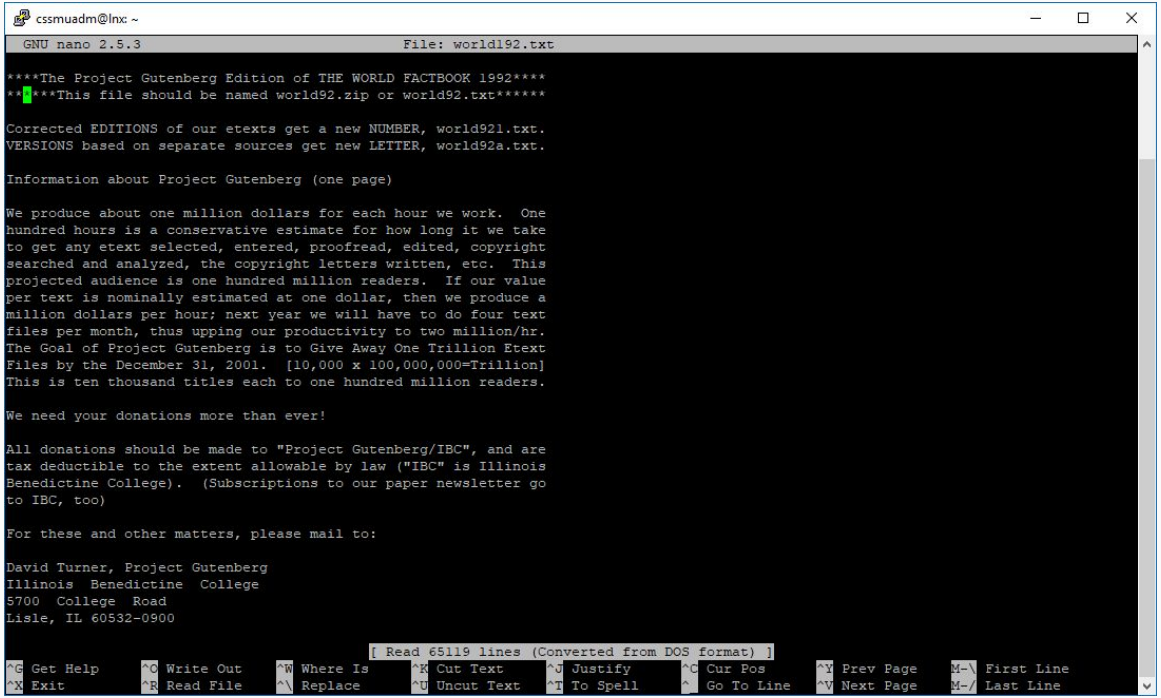
View large files. PgUp/PgDown for scrolling + additional commands (see help)



Working with text data

nano (cmd: nano *text.txt*) is one of the simplest text editors.
Can copy and paste with mouse.

- Ctrl+X to exit
- Ctrl+S to save
- Ctrl+W to find
- Ctrl+K to cut
- Ctrl+U to paste



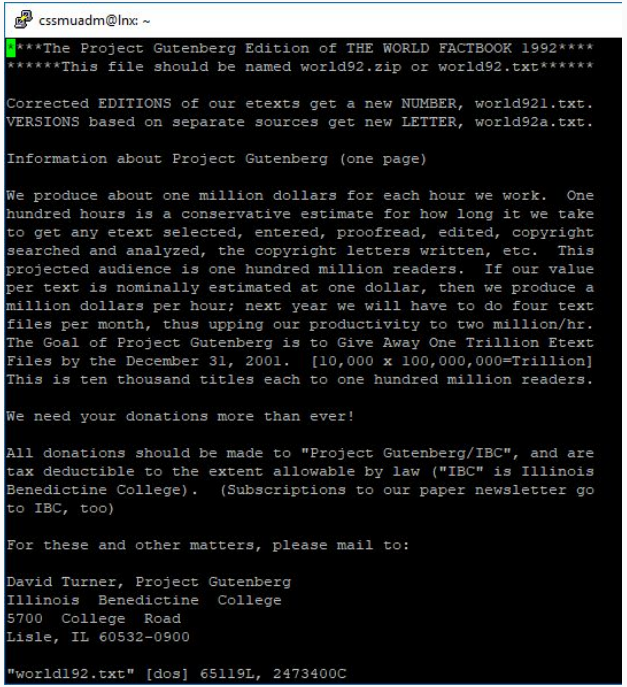
Working with text data

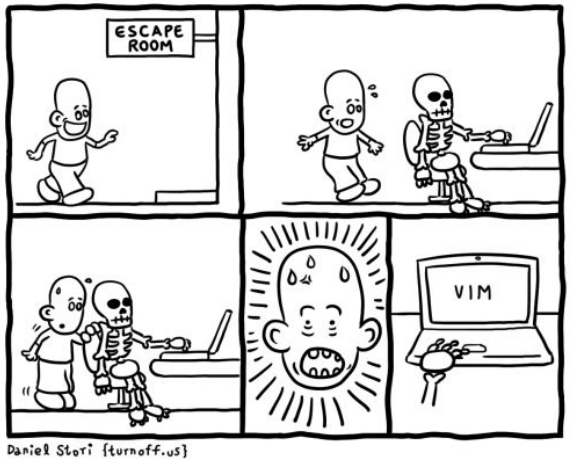
vim (cmd: vi *text.txt*) - powerful text editor. Great for source code.

Has multiple MODES:

- i - insert mode. Can edit text almost like in nano
- Normal mode (press ESC from insert mode) - has navigation commands, save/exit, etc.

:q - exit, :w write, etc..





He never knew how to quit...

[link]

Exercise

1. Copy any file from /var/data
2. Print first 5 and last 10 lines of the file with to console
3. Try to edit the file with either vim or nano