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How to read a file line by line using awk

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Q. How do I read a file line by line using awk utility?

A. awk is pattern scanning and text processing language. It is useful for manipulation of data files, text retrieval and processing, and for prototyping and experimenting with algorithms. The name AWK is derived from the surnames of its authors — Alfred Aho, Peter Weinberger, and Brian Kernighan.

By default it process one line at a time. For example following command will simply process one line at a time:

```
$ cat /etc/passwd | awk '{ print $0}'
```

Or better try

```
$ awk '{ print $0}' /etc/passwd
```

print command is used to output text. $0 is field name for entire line.

By default white space (blank line) act as filed separator. You can set new filed separator with -F option. For example use : as filed separator:

```
$ awk -F':' '{ print $1 }' /etc/passwd
```

Above command will print all username using first field ($1) for current line. You can print username ($1), shell ($7) and login home dir ($6) report as follows:

```
$ awk -F':' '{ print "User " $1 " login using " $7 " shell with as " $6 " home dir"}'
/etc/passwd
```

Output:

```
User root login using /bin/bash shell with as /root home dir
User daemon login using /bin/sh shell with as /usr/sbin home dir
User bin login using /bin/sh shell with as /bin home dir
User sys login using /bin/sh shell with as /dev home dir
....
....
User gdm login using /bin/false shell with as /var/lib/gdm home dir
User vivek login using /bin/bash shell with as /home/vivek home dir
User sshd login using /usr/sbin/nologin shell with as /var/run/sshd home dir
```

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