

Notes 7

cat

Description

- The command is used for displaying the content of a file.

Usage

- `cat + option + file(s) to display`

Examples

- Display the content of a file located in the pwd:
 - `cat todo.lst`
- Display the content of a file using absolute path:
 - `cat ~/Documents/todo.lst`
- Display the content of a file with line numbers:
 - `cat -n ~/Documents/todo.md`
- Display the content of a file showing non-printing characters:
 - `cat -v ~/Documents/todo.md`

tac

Description

- The command is used for displaying the content of a file in reverse order.

Usage

- `tac + option + file(s) to display`

Examples

- Display the content of a file located in the pwd:
 - `tac todo.md`
- Display the content of a file using absolute path:
 - `tac ~/Documents/todo.md`
- Displays two text files with a separator before the line:
 - `tac -b text1.txt text2.txt`

tail

Description

- The tail command displays the last N number of lines of a given file. By default, it prints the last 10 lines. If more than one file name is provided then data from each file is preceded by its file name.

Usage

- `tail + option + file`

Examples

- Display the last 10 lines of a file:
 - `tail ~/Documents/Book/dracula.txt`
- Display the last 5 lines of a file:
 - `tail -5 ~/Documents/Book/dracula.txt`
- Display the last 5 lines of multiple files:
 - `tail -5 dracula.txt bible.txt war-and-peace.txt`
- Display the name of the file in the output:
 - `tail -v -n 7 ~/Documents/Books/dracula.txt`

cut

Description

- The command is used to extract a specific section of each line of a file and display it to the screen.

Usage

- `cut + option + file(s)`

Examples

- Display a list of all the users in your system:
 - `cut -d ':' -f1 /etc/passwd`
- Display a list of all the users in your system with their login shell:
 - `cut -d ':' -f1,7 /etc/passwd`
- Cut a file using a delimiter but changing the delimiter in the output:
 - `cut -d ':' -f1,7 --output-delimiter=' => ' /etc/passwd`

sort

Description

- The command is used for sorting files. The sort command supports sorting alphabetically, reverse order, by number, and by month.

Usage

- `sort + option + file`

Examples

- sort a file:
 - `sort users.lst`
- Sort a file and save the output to a new file:

- `sort -o sorted.lst users.lst`
- sort a file in reverse order:
 - `sort -r users.txt`

WC

Description

- The command is used for printing the number of lines, characters and bytes in a file.

Usage

- `wc + option + file(s)`

Examples

- Display the number of characters in a file:
 - `wc -m users.txt`
- Display the number of lines in a file:
 - `wc -l users.txt`
- Display the number of words in a file:
 - `wc -w users.txt`

tr

Description

- The command is used for translating or deleting characters from standard output.

Usage

- `Standard output + tr + option + set + set`

Examples

- Translate one character to another (for example a period with a comma):
 - `cat file.txt | tr '.' ','`
- Translate white space into tabs:
 - `cat program.py | tr "[:space:]" '\t'`
- Translate tabs into space:
 - `cat file.py | tr -s "[:space:]" ' '`

diff

Description

- The command is used for printing the number of lines, characters and bytes in a file.

Usage

- `diff + option + file1 + file2`

Examples

- Display the difference between two files:
 - `diff cars.csv cars-backup.csv`
- Display the difference between two files in a column format:
 - `diff -y cars.csv cars-backup.csv`
- Display report only when files differ:
 - `diff -q cars.csv cars-backup.csv`

grep

Description

- The command is used to search text in a given file. Grep works line by line basis to match the search criteria asked by the user.

Usage

- `grep + option + search criteria + file(s)`

Examples

- Search any line that contains the word "dracula" in the given file:
 - `grep 'dracula' ~/Documents/dracula.txt`
- Search any line that contains the word dracula regardless of case and with number line:
 - `grep -in 'dracula' ~/Documents/Books/dracula.txt`
- Match all the lines that contain the words list, last, lost:
 - `grep -n 'l[aio]st' ~/Documents/Books/dracula.txt`