



# Stick to the Script

Cybersecurity  
Terminal 101 Day 3



# Class Objectives

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By the end of today's class, you will be able to:



Discuss three benefits of text processing programs over programming languages for a security professional.



Use **sed** to make substitutions to a file.



Use **awk** to isolate data points from a complex log file.

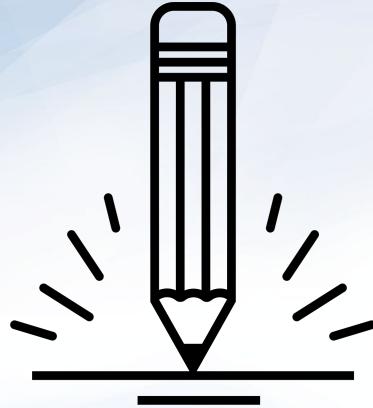


Edit the contents within a file using **nano**.



Design an IP lookup shell script by passing arguments.

# Welcome Back to The Terminal



## Activity: Terminal Warm-Up

You continue as a security analyst at Wonka Corp.

Thanks to your great work, the authorities have been able to charge Slugworth. The prosecutor has subpoenaed you for a list of additional data to help build their case.

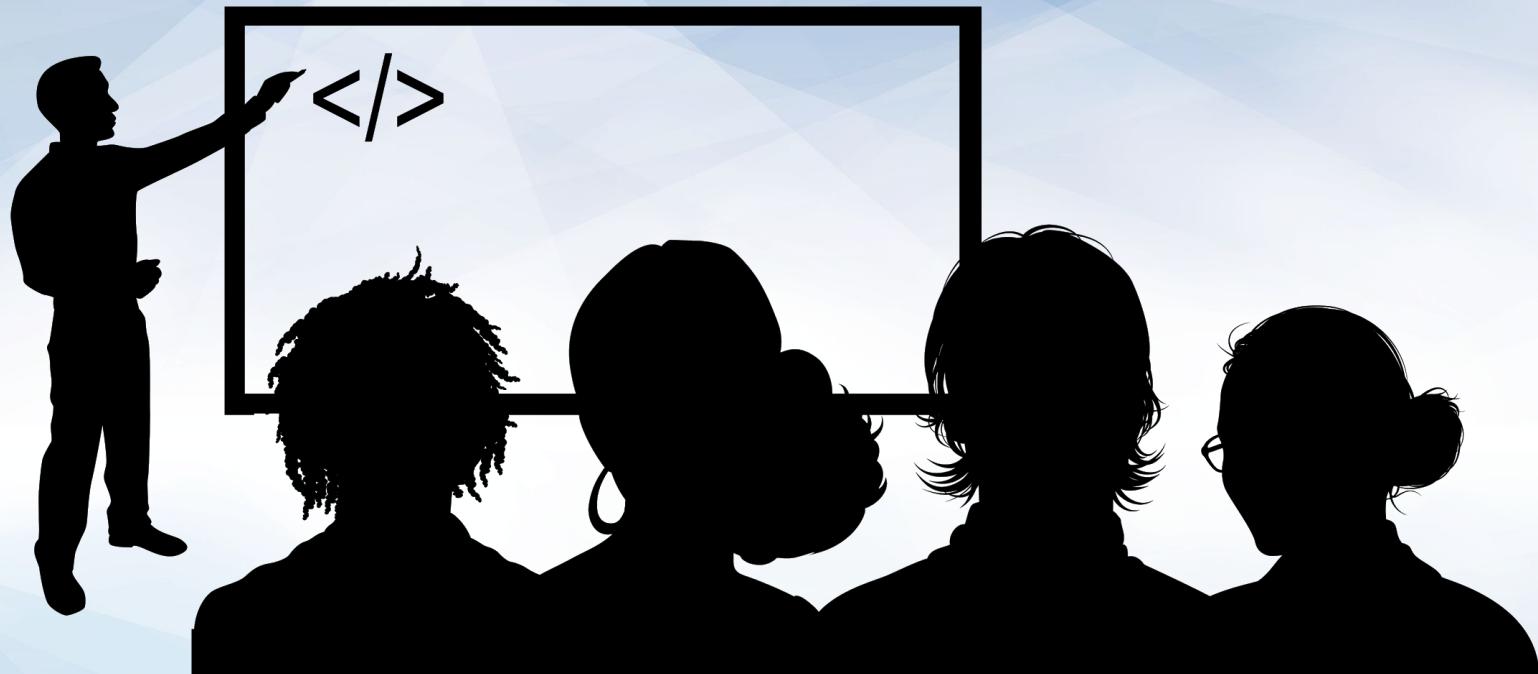
You are tasked with gathering additional information as specified in the subpoena.

**Suggested Time:**  
**10 minutes**





**Times Up! Let's Review.**



## Instructor Demonstration Terminal Warm-Up

# Text Processing

65.55.215.109 - - [18/Jan/2013:19:57:13 -0500] "GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1" 301 303 "-" "msnbot-media/1.1 (+http://search.msn.com/msnbot.htm)"  
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Security professionals work with many forms of data, such as:

- Application logs
- Server logs
- Server files
- Configuration files
- Raw code

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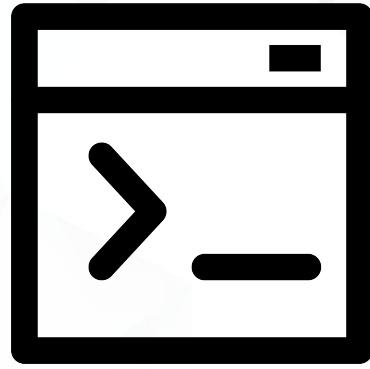
Embedded within these large, complex files are data points that help security analysts research security incidents, such as:

- Dates
- Usernames
- Phone numbers

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We can use this data to:

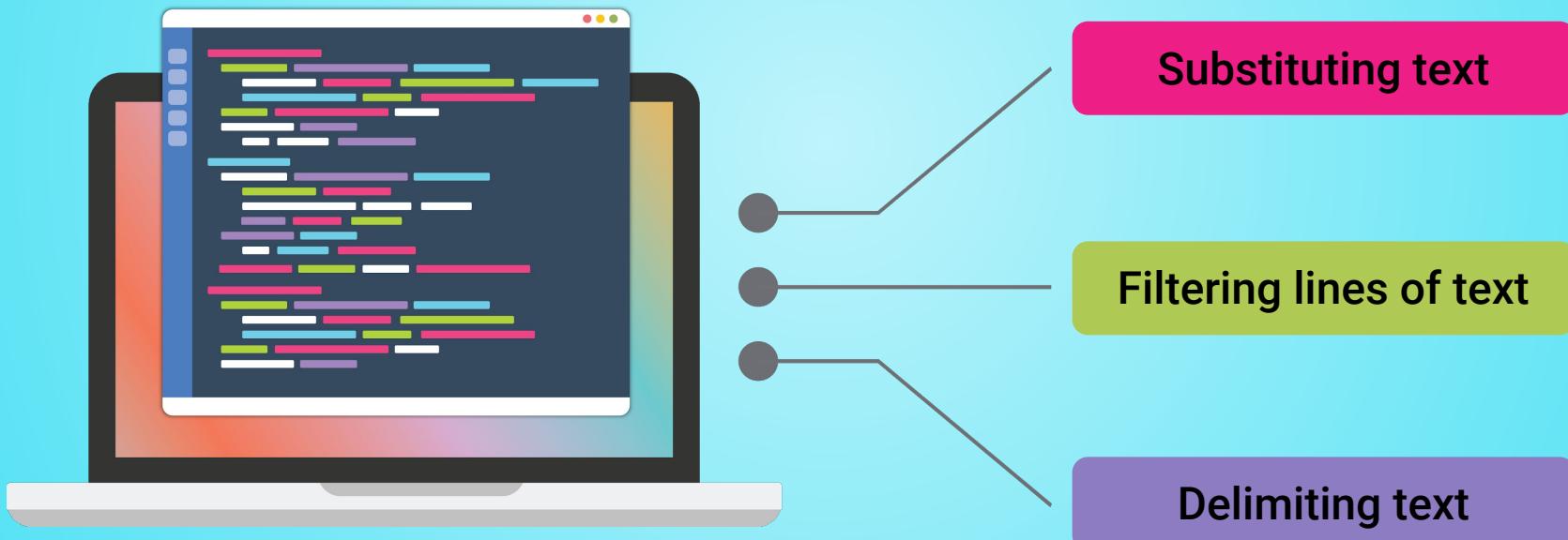
- Isolate attack signatures.
- Identify attack vectors.
- Identify timing of attacks.



# Text Processing Commands

# Text Processing Commands

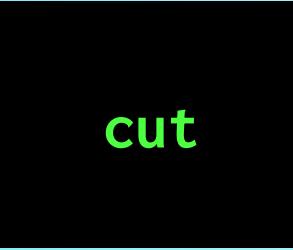
We can tackle these dense walls of data with text processing commands. These command languages manipulate text and simplify complex data by:



# Text Processing Commands

---

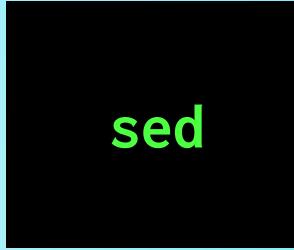
Multiple text processing commands are already built into the terminal, such as:

A black rectangular box containing the word "cut" in white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

cut

A black rectangular box containing the word "awk" in white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

awk

A black rectangular box containing the word "sed" in white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

sed

- Other languages can also manipulate text, such as **Python** and **C++**.
- These are designed for programming and are primarily used to run web applications.

# Text Processing Commands

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Text processing provides the following benefits over programming languages:

## Simplicity

Text processing is simpler and easier to learn than programming languages.

## Convenience

Most text processing commands are pre-installed in terminals, unlike many programming languages.

## Compatibility

Text processing commands can easily be added together to complete more advanced tasks—a complicated task with programming languages.

Today we will focus on the powerful  
text processing utilities  
of `awk` and `sed`.

sed

# Challenges of Data Processing

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One challenge of complex files is the need to consolidate data from two sources.

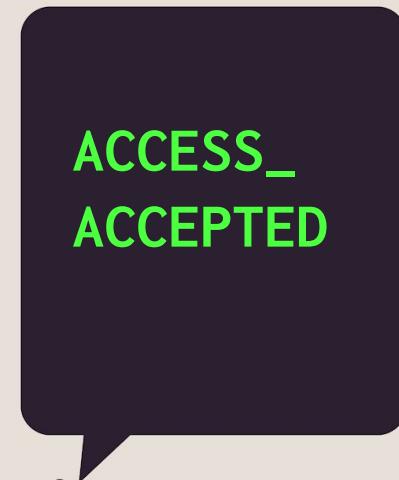
For example:

- A security professional wants to analyze login activities from two different applications.

One application  
labels logins



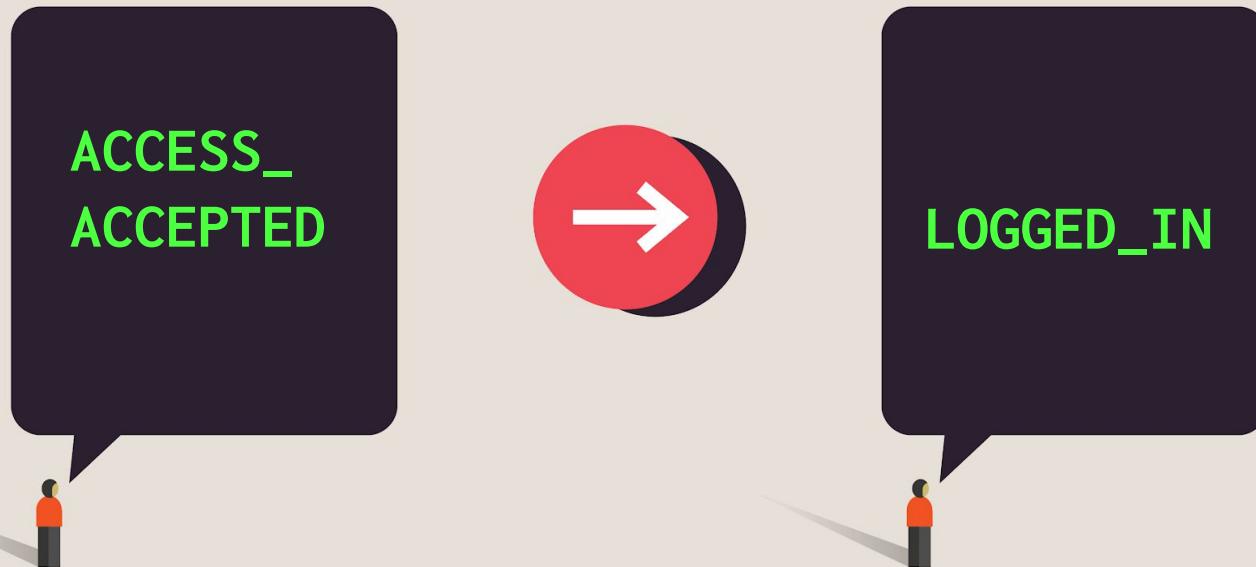
The other labels  
logins



# Challenges of Data Processing

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You need to replace the string ACCESS\_ACCEPTED with LOGGED\_IN to make the data consistent and allow for both datasets to be analyzed together.



# sed

---

We can solve this complication by using **sed**.



**sed** stands for **stream editor**.



It reads and edits text, line-by-line from an input stream.



Syntax is: **sed s/(old value)/(replacement value)/**



It is similar to the familiar *find and replace* feature in Windows systems.

# sed

---

In the next walkthrough, we will complete a simple string replacement using `sed`.



The Dog Chased the Ball

*with*



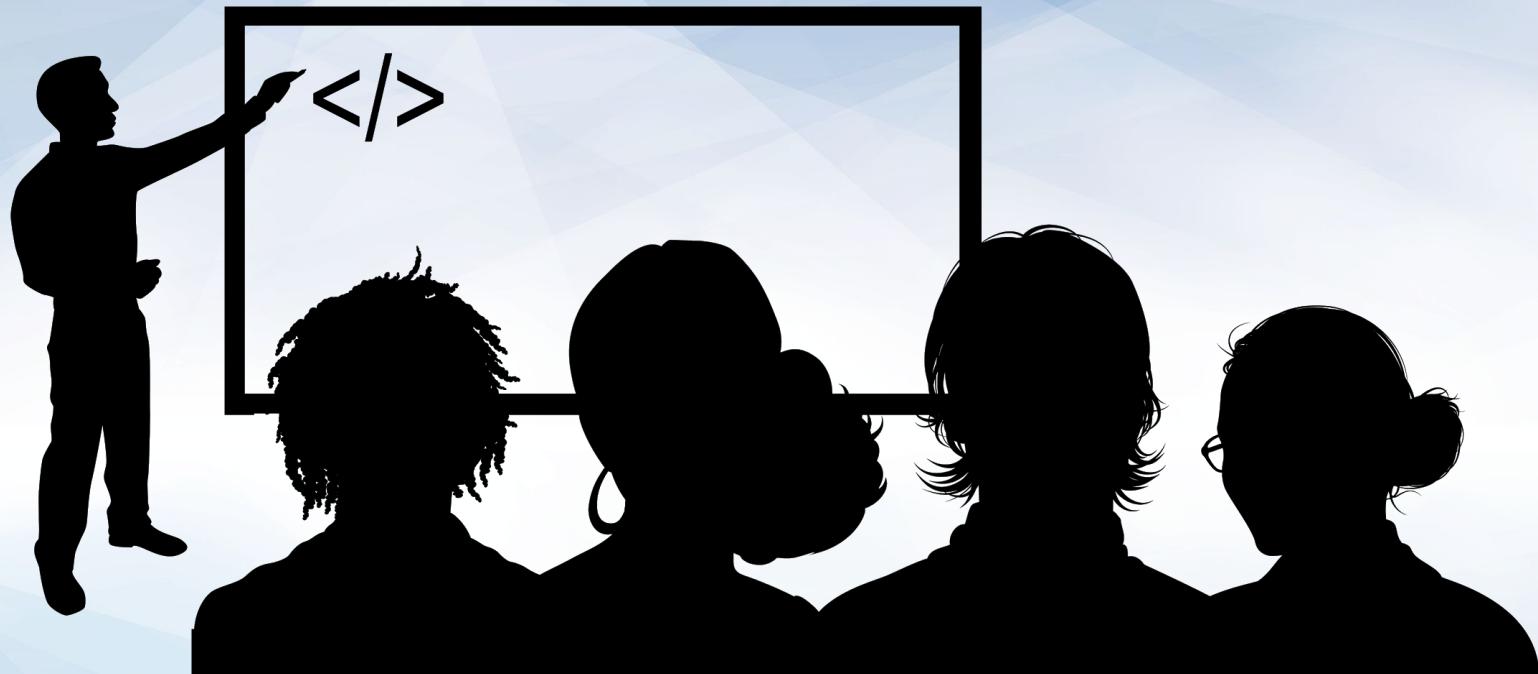
The Dog Chased the Cat

We can use `sed` to replace

Ball

*with*

Cat



Instructor Demonstration

**sed**

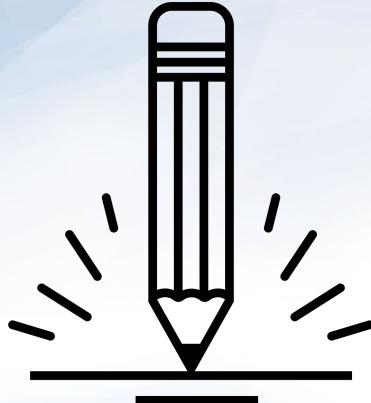
# Demo Summary

---

```
sed s/(old value)/(replacement value)/
```

- **sed** is a text processing utility that can help security professionals analyze data.
- The most basic **sed** capability is *string replacement*.
- This can help with research by making separate data sources more consistent.





## Activity: Using **sed**

You continue in your role as security analyst at Wonka Corp. Your manager suspects a new cybercriminal is attempting to log in to several administrative websites owned by Wonka. They provided you with the access logs for two different websites.

You must combine the two access logs into a single file and use text processing to make the “failed login” data consistent.

**Suggested Time:**  
**15 Minutes**





**Time's Up! Let's Review.**

# Activity Review: Using sed

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Completing this activity required the following steps:

1. Concatenating multiple files into a single file.
2. Using **sed** to do a replacement of text.
3. Redirecting the results into a new file.



**awk**



## **Remember:**

We'll need to obtain specific data points within complex log files.

# Intro to awk

---

You have a log record containing city, state, and country fields, separated by commas. But, for our analysis, we only need the **state** from the log record.

We have:

Atlanta, Georgia, USA

But we only need:

Atlanta, **Georgia**, USA



# Intro to awk

---

We can technically use `sed` to perform the task:

```
sed 's/^.*\((.*),.*\).*$/\1/' | sed 's/,//g'
```

- This looks (and is) very complicated.
- Fortunately, there is a more efficient tool: `awk`.



# Intro to awk

---

Like sed, awk is designed for text processing, but is particularly useful for data extraction and reporting against streams of text.

```
awk -F, '{print $(field_number)}'
```

- awk is the indicator to tell your operating system to run the awk command.

# Intro to awk

Like sed, awk is designed for text processing, but is particularly useful for data extraction and reporting against streams of text.

```
awk -F, '{print $(field_number)}'
```

The parameter comes directly after the -F, with no spaces.

- -F, is the option for doing field separation with awk.
- The next value is the **parameter**, which signifies what separates the data in the file.
  - This parameter is also known as the **delimiter**.
- In the example, we used a comma (,).

# Intro to awk

Like sed, awk is designed for text processing, but is particularly useful for data extraction and reporting against streams of text.

```
awk -F, '{print $(field_number)}'
```

- '{print \$2}' indicates awk is printing the second field, after the fields have been separated by the comma.
- The \$ must be included before the number to indicate the field.
- Multiple fields can be added, with a comma between each.
- The format requires single quotes (' ') and curly brackets ('{}') around the print function.

# awk Walkthrough

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In the next walkthrough, we will isolate the **state** field from the previous example, using awk.



# Demo Scenario:

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## awk for a Security Incident

In this demo, we'll act as security analysts at ACME Corp, which just experienced an attack of a high volume of network requests. You received the logs of these network requests.

You must isolate out the **IP addresses** and **time** from these logs to determine which IP address appears most frequently. This IP likely belongs to the attacker.



# Instructor Demonstration

## Introduction to **awk**

## **awk** for a Security Incident



## Demos: Introduction to **awk** & **awk** for a Security Incident

You are a security analyst at ACME Corp, which just experienced an attack of a high volume of network requests. You received the logs of these network requests.

You must isolate out the **IP addresses** and **time** from these logs to determine which IP address appears most frequently. This IP likely belongs to the attacker.

Suggested Time:  
10 Minutes



# Demo Review: Introduction to **awk** & **awk** for a Security Incident

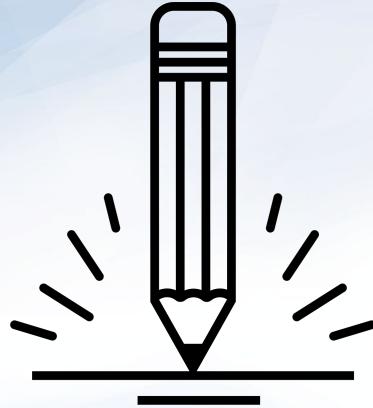
---

The previous demo covered the following concepts:

1. **awk** is a text processing utility like **sed**, but more robust. It can separate out fields with simple code.
2. Security professionals can use **awk** to isolate specific data points, like IP addresses. This info can help determine what IPs should be blocked.
3. The basic syntax of field separation with **awk** is:

```
awk -F(delimiter) '{print $(field_number)}'
```





## Activity: Using **awk**

You continue in the role of security analyst at Wonka Corp. Your manager needs your help finding information on the cybercriminal attempting to log in to administrative websites owned by Wonka.

You must isolate several fields from the log file to help determine the primary username attempting to log in.

**Suggested Time:**  
**15 Minutes**



# Activity Review: Using **awk**

---

Completing this activity required the following steps:

1. Moving a file.
2. Using the **awk** command to isolate out certain fields.
3. Redirecting the results into a new file.





Break



# Intro to Shell Scripting

# Intro to Shell Scripting

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IT and security professionals often have to complete security tasks involving multiple subsequent commands.



# Intro to Shell Scripting

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For example, an IT professional could be tasked with cleaning up space in a directory. They would need to run the following three commands, in order:

01

`cd` to navigate to the directory that contains log files.

02

`zip` to compress the files.

03

`mv` to move the new zip file into archive folder.

**If we script these commands together, they will run, in order, with a single command.**

# Benefits of Scripting

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Scripting provides the following benefits to IT and security professionals:

## Efficiency

Running multiple commands with a single script can improve the speed of tasks.

## Consistency

Running multiple commands with a single script can improve the consistency of task results.

## Reusability

Scripts can be provided to other users for reusability, meaning the same tasks can be completed by someone unfamiliar with the individual commands.

# Shell Scripting

We'll focus on a specific type of scripting known as **shell scripting**.

**Shell** is a terminal program that assists in the interaction between user and the terminal.

Several shells are available in the terminal, such as:

Sh

Bash

Zsh

csh

The screenshot shows the header of the opensource.com website. It features the 'opensource.com' logo with three colored dots above it, and a 'Supported by Red Hat' badge. On the right side of the header are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and RSS, along with a search icon.

## Shell scripting: An introduction to the shift method and custom functions

23 Jan 2017 | Seth Kenlon (Red Hat) | 252 | 4 comments



*Image by : Nasjonalbiblioteket. Modified by Opensource.com. CC BY-SA 4.0*



In [Getting started with shell scripting](#), I covered the basics of shell scripting by creating a pretty handy "despacifier" script to remove bothersome spaces from file names. Now I'll expand that idea to an application that can swap out other characters, too. This introduces the **shift** method of parsing options as well as creating custom functions.

This article is valid for the **bash**, **ksh**, and **zsh** shells. Most principles in it hold true for **tcsh**, but there are significant differences in **tcsh** syntax and flow of logic that it deserves its own article. If you're using **tcsh** and want to adapt this lesson for yourself, go study function hacks ([tcsh hacks](#)) and the syntax of [conditional statements](#), and then give it a go. Bonus points shall be rewarded.

# Shell Scripting

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For example, we'll be using the bash shell. To declare it, we'll write `#!/bin/bash`.

Let's say you needed to clean up a directory that's running low on space.

For this scenario, we can use a shell script called `diskcleanup.sh`. (The extension `.sh` is required for executable scripts.)

01

```
#!/bin/bash
```

02

```
cd log_directory
```

03

```
zip logs* logfiles.zip
```

04

```
mv logfiles.zip ./archive_directory
```

# Shell Scripting

---

To make this script executable we need to run:

05

```
chmod +x diskcleanup.sh
```

Then to run the script we run:

06

```
./diskcleanup.sh
```

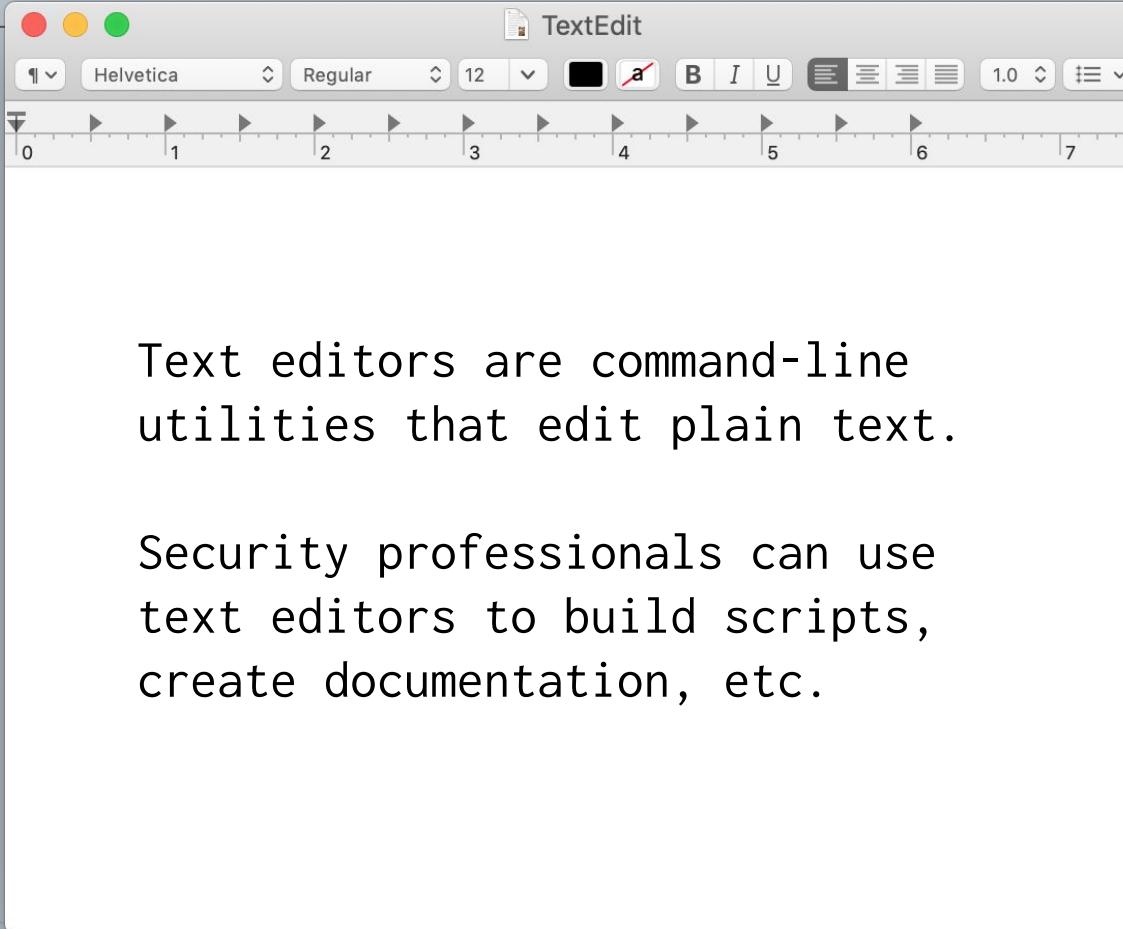


## **But wait:**

To add these commands to our script, we need to know how to write to a file.

# Writing and Editing Files

# Text Editors

A screenshot of theTextEdit application window on a Mac OS X desktop. The window title is "TextEdit". The toolbar includes font ("Helvetica"), style ("Regular"), size ("12"), and various text format buttons (bold, italic, underline). A horizontal ruler is visible below the toolbar, ranging from 0 to 7 inches with tick marks every 1/2 inch. The main document area is blank.

Text editors are command-line utilities that edit plain text.

Security professionals can use text editors to build scripts, create documentation, etc.

# Text Editors

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You are probably already familiar with text editors.

**Notepad** on Windows



**TextEdit** on Mac



# Text Editors

Common text editors available within terminal are: nano, vi, vim, and emacs.

**nano**

# Today, we'll focus on **nano**.

vi

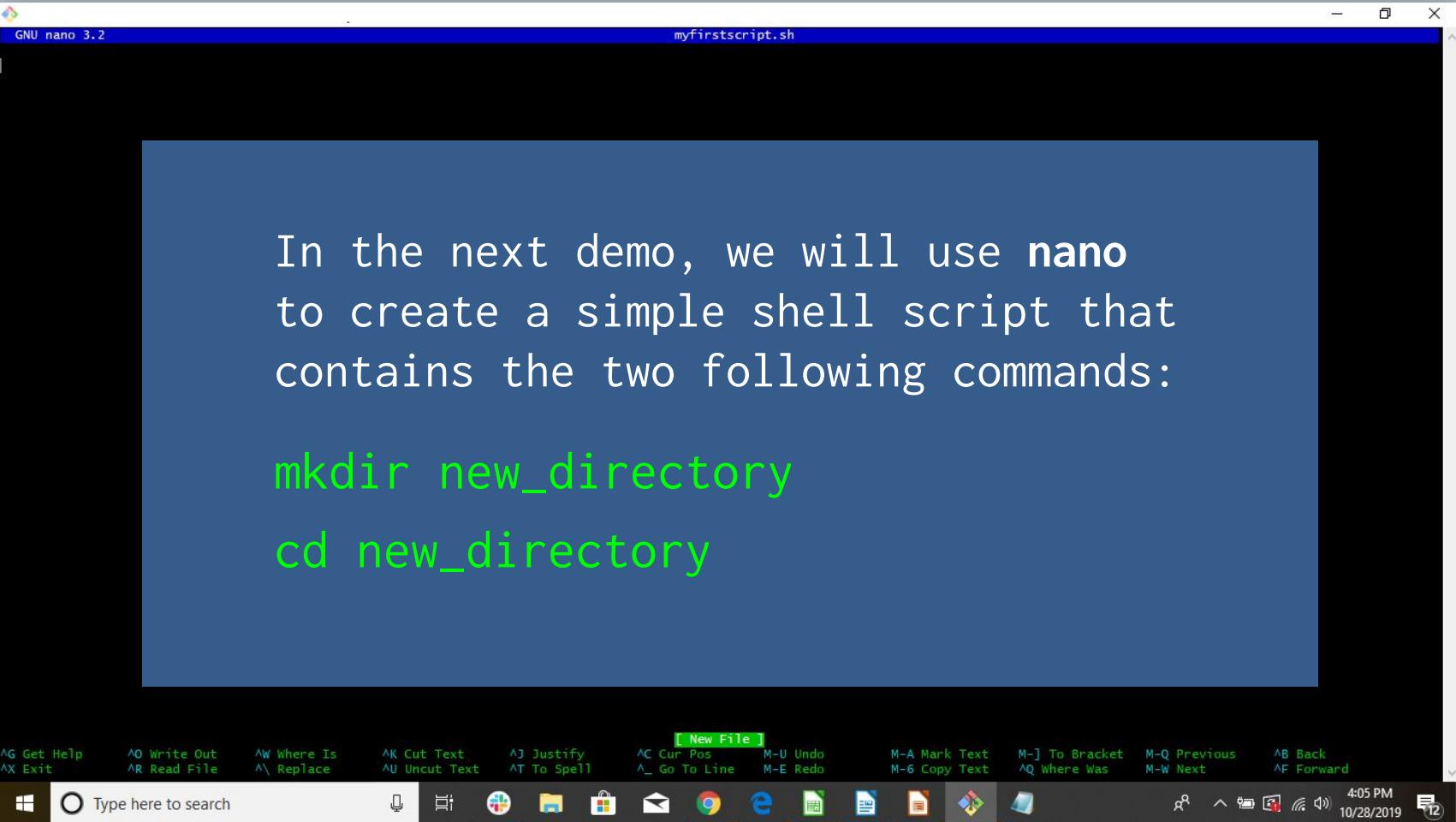


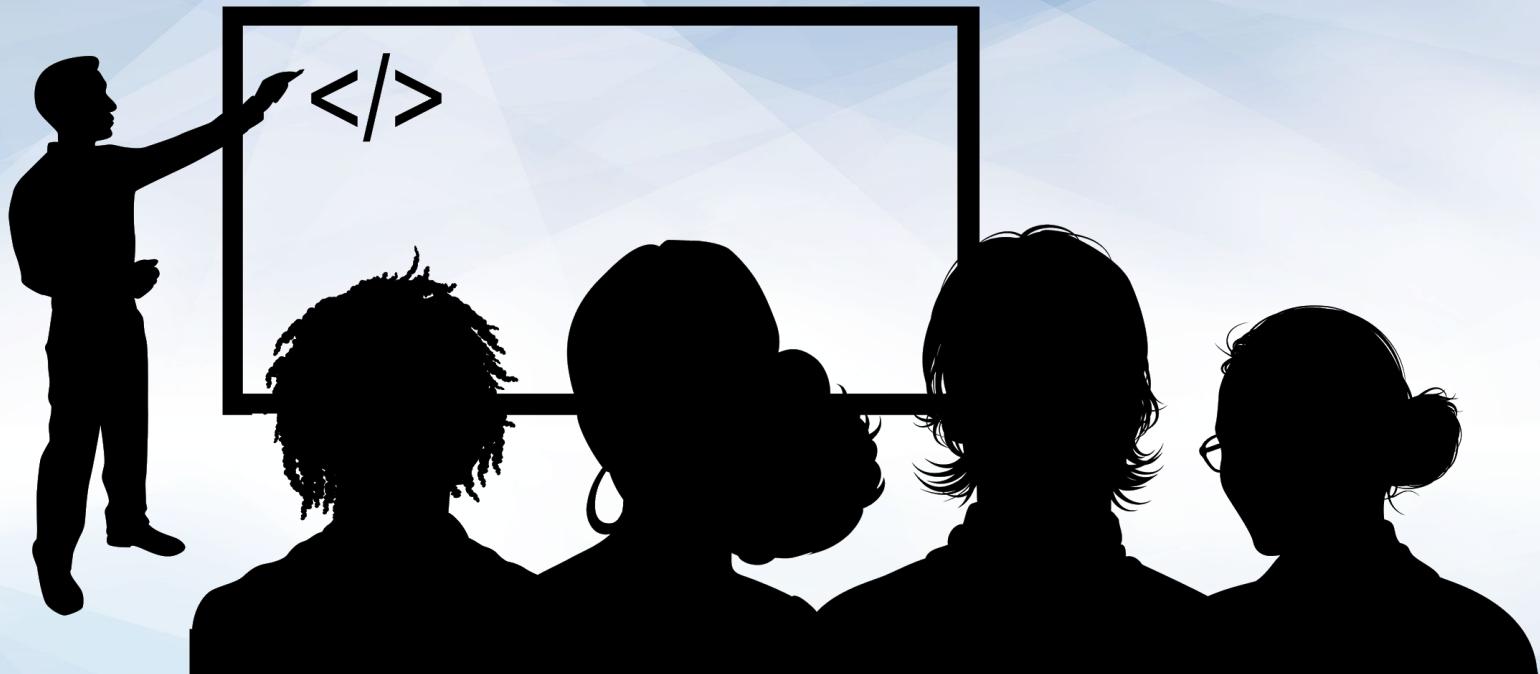
vim



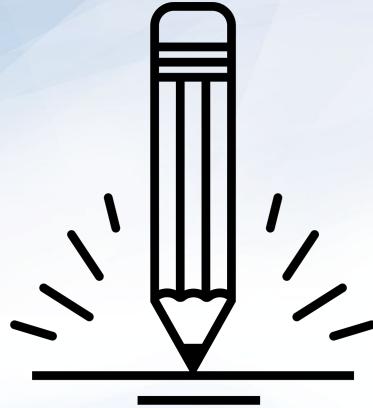
# emacs







## Instructor Demonstration My First Shell Script Review



## Activity: My First Shell Script

You continue in your role as security analyst at Wonka. Your manager needs help creating a simple shell script to automate the **awk** and **sed** tasks you did today on your log file. This shell script will be provided to other security analysts so they can easily complete the same tasks.

You are tasked with using **nano** to create a shell script with the **awk** and **sed** commands to analyze a log file.

Suggested Time:  
15 Minutes





**Time's Up! Let's Review.**

# Activity Review: My First Shell Script

---

Completing this activity required the following steps:

1. Use **nano** to create a shell script.
2. Place the previously written **sed** and **awk** commands inside the shell script .
3. Execute the shell script to confirm the results work as expected.



# Passing Arguments

# Passing Arguments

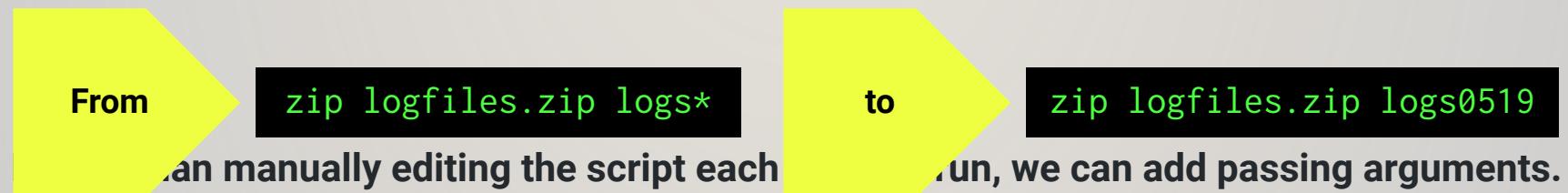
---

Sometimes we'll need to change only a single value in a script.

**For example:**

A security analyst may need to run the cleanup shell script, but only need it to zip up a certain date.

- We need to zip up files named **logs0519**
- We need to change one command in the script:



# Passing a Single Argument

---

When a script is run, you can add an argument by placing it after the script name.

**For the previous example:**

We could run:

```
sh diskcleanup.sh 0519
```

The syntax is:

```
sh shellscript Argument1
```

# Passing a Single Argument

To pass the `0519` into the script, we have to add a `$1` indicating where the first argument, `0519`, will be passed.

We change:

```
zip logfiles.zip logs*
```

to

```
zip logfiles.zip logs$1
```

When the script is run, the command will be changed:

```
sh diskcleanup.sh 0519
```

will run

```
zip logs0519 logfiles.zip
```

# Adding Multiple Arguments

---

Additional arguments can be added with the following syntax:

```
sh shellscript Argument1 Argument2 Argument3
```

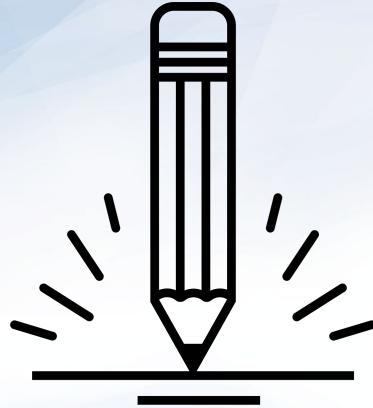
**For example:**

```
sh diskcleanup.sh 0519 backupfolder
```

Within the script, the arguments are represented by:

Argument 1 = \$1

Argument 2 = \$2



## Activity: Building an IP Lookup Tool

In this activity, you continue in the role of security analyst at Wonka. Your manager needs to know where attacks are coming from so they can block the country from accessing their network.

Your manager is impressed with the great work you did on the last script and asked you to design a script to identify the countries of IP addresses found in the logs.

**Suggested Time:**  
**20 Minutes**





**Time's Up! Let's Review.**

# Activity Review: Building an IP Lookup Tool

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Completing this activity required the following steps:

1. Using `man` to learn a new command.
2. Using `grep`, pipes, and `awk` to modify a terminal command.
3. Designing a shell script to include the modified command.
4. Configuring the shell script to accept arguments.
5. Running the shell script by passing in arguments.



# Class Objectives

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By the end of today's class, you will be able to:



Discuss three benefits of text processing programs over programming languages for a security professional.



Use **sed** to make substitutions to a file.



Use **awk** to isolate data points from a complex log file.



Edit the contents within a file using **nano**.



Design an IP lookup shell script by passing arguments.

# Questions?

*The  
End*