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Using cat Interactively

cat can be used to read from standard input (such as the terminal window) if no files are specified. You can use the **>** operator to create and add lines into a new file, and the **>>** operator to append lines (or files) to an existing file. We mentioned this when talking about how to create files without an editor.

To create a new file, at the command prompt, type **cat > <filename>** and press the **Enter** key.

This command creates a new file and waits for the user to edit/enter the text. After you finish typing the required text, press **Ctrl-D** at the beginning of the next line to save and exit the editing.

Another way to create a file at the terminal is **cat > <filename> << EOF**. A new file is created and you can type the required input. To exit, enter **EOF** at the beginning of a line.

Note that **EOF** is case sensitive. One can also use another word, such as **STOP**.

```
student@opensuse:~> cat << EOF > somefile
> Anything typed will go in the file
> This is a substitution expression: $(echo HELLO $USER)
> This is the last line, have fun!
> EOF
student@opensuse:~> cat somefile
Anything typed will go in the file
This is a substitution expression: HELLO student
This is the last line, have fun!
student@opensuse:~> |
```

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