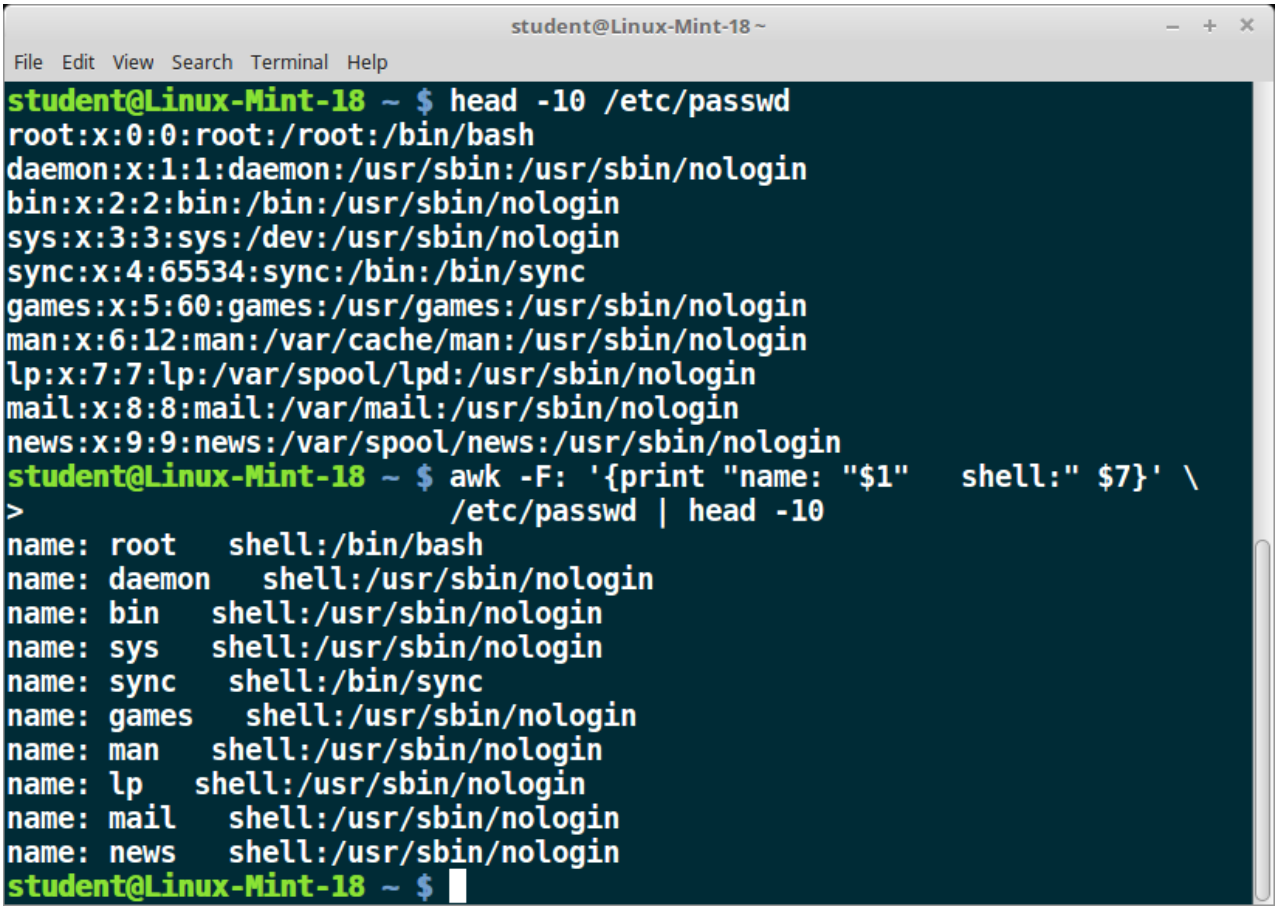
awk Command Syntax and Basic Operations

coursera.org/learn/linux-tools-for-developers/supplement/XyGPe/awk-command-syntax-and-basic-operations

awk is invoked as shown in the following screenshot:



As with **sed**, short **awk** commands can be specified directly at the command line, but a more complex script can be saved in a file that you can specify using the **-f** option.

Command	<header>
awk 'command' file	Specify a command directly at the command line
awk -f scriptfile file	Specify a file that contains the script to be executed

The table below explains the basic tasks that can be performed using **awk**. The input file is read one line at a time, and, for each line, **awk** matches the given pattern in the given order and performs the requested action. The **-F** option allows you to specify a particular field separator character. For example, the **/etc/passwd** file uses "**:**" to separate the fields, so the **-F:** option is used with the **/etc/passwd** file.

The command/action in **awk** needs to be surrounded with apostrophes (or single-quote (')). **awk** can be used as follows:

Command	Usage
awk '{ print $0 }' /etc/passwd	Print entire file
awk -F: '{ print $1 }' /etc/passwd	Print first field (column) of every line, separated by a space
awk -F: '{ print $1 $7 }' /etc/passwd	Print first and seventh field of every line