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cat

cat is short for concatenate and is one of the most frequently used Linux command line utilities. It is often used to read and print files, as well as for simply viewing file contents. To view a file, use the following command:

```
1    $ cat <filename>
```

For example, **cat readme.txt** will display the contents of **readme.txt** on the terminal. However, the main purpose of **cat** is often to combine (concatenate) multiple files together. You can perform the actions listed in the table using **cat**.

The **tac** command (**cat** spelled backwards) prints the lines of a file in reverse order. Each line remains the same, but the order of lines is inverted. The syntax of **tac** is exactly the same as for **cat**, as in:

```
1    $ tac file
2    $ tac file1 file2 > newfile
```

Command	Usage
cat file1 file2	Concatenate multiple files and display the output; i.e. the entire content of the first file is followed by that of the second file
cat file1 file2 > newfile	Combine multiple files and save the output into a new file
cat file >> existingfile	Append a file to the end of an existing file
cat > file	Any subsequent lines typed will go into the file, until **Ctrl-D** is typed
cat >> file	Any subsequent lines are appended to the file, until **Ctrl-D** is typed

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