

COMP 225 Network and System Administration

Notes #3: Utility

K. L. Eddie Law, PhD

Macao Polytechnic Institute
School of Applied Sciences
Academic Year 2020-2021, 2nd Semester

Some Commands Briefly Discussed

- uname -a
- id

- stat
- mkdir

- systemctl
- groups
- head
- rmdir

- ps aux
- hostname
- tail
- cd

- Is -la
- date
- clear
- rm

- cat
- cal
- echo
- pwd

- less | more
- uptime
- chmod
- touch

- whoami
- WC
- chown
- which

- logname
- file
- chgrp

Some Reserved Keywords - Scripting

- ifcasewhilefor
- elif esac until !
- else do {
- then done }
- fi

Eddie Law

Objectives

- Learn some basic UNIX/Linux utilities
- The basic of grep command
- Use the dd utility to copy and convert files
- Monitor hard disk usage
- Use system status utilities
- Monitor and manage processes
- Check the spelling of text in a document
- Use the cmp command to compare the contents of two files
- Format text to create and use a man page

UNIX/Linux Utilities

- Utilities for
 - Creating and managing files
 - Producing reports
 - Monitoring and maintaining the system
 - Executing programs
 - Recovering from a range of errors
- New utilities are updated/edited/added daily to make Linux run more efficiently
 - Of course, some are deprecated or removed

Eddie Law

UNIX/Linux Utilities (cont'd)

- Eight major areas:
 - File processing
 - System status
 - Networking
 - Communications
 - Security
 - Programming
 - Source code management
 - Miscellaneous

File Processing Utilities

Command	Brief Description of Function
awk	Processes files
cat	Displays files (and is used with other tools to concatenate files)
cmp	Compares two files
comm	Compares sorted files, and show differences
ср	Copies files
cpio	Copies and backups files in a archive
cut	Selects characters or fields from input lines
dd	Copies and converts input records
diff	Compares two text files, and shows differences
file	Displays the file type
find	Finds files within file tree
fmt	Formats text files for displaying
grep	Matches patterns in files, for line filtering, word search, etc.
gzip	Compresses or decompresses files
ispell	Checks one or more files for spelling errors
In	Creates a link to a file

Command	Brief Description of Function
lpr	Sends a file to a printer or print device
man	Displays documentation for commands
mkfs	Builds a Linux/UNIX file system
mount	Mounts file systems or devices
od	Formats and displays data from a file in octal, hexadecimal, or ASCII format
paste	Concatenates file horizontally
pr	Formats text files for printing, and displays them
sed	Edits streams (non-interactive)
sort	Sorts or merges files
tail	Displays the last lines of files (default: last 10 lines)
tar	Copies and backs up files to a tape archive
tr	Translates or deletes characters from standard input and writes results to standard output
uniq	Displays unique lines, or reports repeated lines
whereis	Locates information about a specific file

Eddie Law

The man Command

- An interface to the system reference manuals
- There might be different "section" page numbers for each command
- \$ man stat
- And try \$ info stat

Description
User commands
System calls
C library functions
Devices and special files
File formats and conventions
Games
Miscellaneous
System admin tools and daemons

The 1n Command*

- Soft link
 - \$ ln -s original newlink
- What is the inode number?
 - \$ ls -li

- Hard link
 - In original newlink
- What are the inode and link numbers?
 - \$ 1s -li

Eddie Law

The tar Command

- tar stands for tape archiver
- Used as a powerful backup and restore utility
- Most Linux files are downloaded as .tar files
- E.g., extraction of a tar file

tar -xvf file.tar

-x extracts files

-v verbose

-f filename

More on it later...

Two Files

• \$ cat file1

Brian has a dog

Byron has 2 dogs

Ellen has a cat

Elden has a snake

Louise has two dogs

Ruby has two puppies and one cat

• \$ cat file2

Brian has a dog

Byron has two dogs

Ellen has a cat

Elden has a snake

Eddie Law 11

Comparing Files

- Use the cmp utility to compare the contents of two files, and report the first difference between them
- The cmp command displays the position and line number of this difference
 - \$ cmp file1 file2
- If there are no differences, the cmp command displays nothing

The uniq Command

- Runs on a single file to searching for consecutive duplicate lines
- uniq removes any such duplicates, does not overwrite the file, but outputs a file without the duplicates, can simply redirect to a new file \$ uniq file.txt > filewithoutduplicates.txt
- Since only compares adjacent lines, cannot find duplicate lines that do not appear one after the other

Eddie Law

uniq (cont'd)

- Options:
 - Output file without duplicates, or
 - (-D) output the found duplicates, or
 - (-c) count the number of duplicates
 - Can ignore (-i) case or
 - (-s #) skip over characters

The diff Command*

- Compares the differences between two files, in general
- For each line in the first file but not in second, output preceded by a '<'
- For every line in second file but not in first, output preceded by a '>'
- For each line or group of lines that differ, a summary is provided indicating how the two differ
 - If file 1 had a line, not in file 2, then the line had to be deleted to match file 2
 - If file 2 had a line that not in file 1, suggested that the line had to be added
 - If two corresponding lines between the two files did not match, suggested to change the line
 - Indicated by letters 'a' for added, 'd' for deleted, and 'c' for changed; if 3a5,6 ⇒ at line 3 of the first file, we had to add lines 5 to 6 of the second file

Eddie Law

The diff Command (cont'd)

- If a file does not exist, it responds with an error
- If first filename is a directory, diff finds file in the directory whose name matches that of the second file
- If diff is provided with two directories, it compares all pairs of files who share the same names in both directories
- Option i ignores upper and lower case letters; -w, -B, -E, ignore all white space, blank lines, tab expansions, respectively
- To operate on more than two files, add option --from-file=
 - If comparing file1 to all of file2, file3, file4, and file5, should use
 \$ diff --from-file=file1 file2 file3 file4 file5
 - Output of the comparisons is separated by --- to indicate that the next file is being compared

The diff and patch Commands

- Given two file1 and file2
 - \$ diff file1 file2 > patchfile
 - \$ path file1 < patchfile
- Now both file1 and file2 are identical

Eddie Law

grep (Global Regular Expression Print)*

- To search for words "cat" in the file "file1"
 - \$ grep cat file1
 - \$ grep cat < file1</pre>
 - \$ cat file1 | grep cat
- Some metacharacters:
- Represents a character
 - Beginning of a line, or not the letter after this symbol

 | End of a line
 - Zero or more of a pattern just described
- Search the metacharacter symbol, use an escape "\"
 - Search the metacharacter symbol, use an escape "
 - ? have meaning in shell, not for grep
- Character classes: delineated with [and] symbols
 - [ai] matches an a or an i, both are in lowercase
 - [a-z0-9] matches the lowercase letters a through z, and 0 to 9

grep (cont'd)

- Regular expression can be complicated
- Options
 - -i ignores cases
 - -v complement lines instead of selected lines, -v "^\$" removes blank lines
 - -c counts number of lines matching
 - -1 shows names of files that contains the pattern, check out all files with "*"
 - -w shows results with exact word matching, no partial matching
 - -b prints the byte offsets from the beginning of the file
 - -n prints the line offsets from the beginning of the file
 - o only characters that match
 - E use extended regular expression (equal to use egrep)

Eddie Law

The find Command*

- A powerful tool, the format is
 - \$ find [directory] [options]
 - where directory is the starting point in the file system for the search to begin
- Let consider the simple case here
- E.g., search for files with .conf extensions under /etc directory
 - \$ find /etc -name "*.conf" -print
 - Many new implementations don't need "-print" anymore
- Option: -type [b|c|d|p|f|1|s]
 - where b (block), c (character), d (directory), p (pipe), f (regular file), I (symbolic link), s (socket)
- Test it out: \$ find ~ -type f -exec wc -l {} \;

System Status Utilities

Command	Brief Description of Function	
date	Sets and displays date and time	
df	Displays the amount of free space remaining on disk	
du	Summarizes file space usage	
file	Determines file type (e.g., script, executable, ASCII, etc.)	
free	Displays amount of free and used memory in the system	
kill	Terminates a running process	
pgrep	Returns the process IDs that match the process name	
pkill, killall	Kills a process, given its name	
ps	Displays process status by process identification number and name	
pstree	Visualizes processes, and displays them in tree format	
renice	Changes the nice value of an already running process	
sleep	Suspends process execution for a specified time	
top	Dynamically displays the status of processes in real time, focusing on those processes that are using the most CPU resources	
uname	Shows information about the operating system	
vmstat	Shows information about virtual memory use	
W	Displays detailed information about the users who are logged in	
who	Displays brief information about the users who are logged in	

The finger and sleep command

- The finger command was used to find out information about users
 - Unsafe, usually not installed by default
 - \$ finger username
 - Displays information about the user including username, full name, home directory, last login time, shell, etc.
- The sleep command:
 - Suspends the execution of the process in number of milliseconds

Network Utilities

Command	Brief Description of Function
dig	Performs DNS lookups and displays the answers from name servers
ftp	Transfers files over a network (not safe)
ifconfig	Set up a wired network interface (old command)
ip	Set up network interface (new command)
netstat	Shows network connection information (old)
nfsstat	Shows statistics for Network File System (NFS) activity
nmap	Checks the opened port on the server
nslookup	Queries Internet domain name server (DNS)
ping	Polls another network station (using TCP/IP)
rcp	Remotely copies a file from a network computer
rlogin	Logs in to a remote computer (not safe)
route	Displays routing table information
rsh	Executes commands on a remote computer
scp	Secure transfers files between a local host and a remote host or between two remote hosts
sftp	Transfers files securely over a network connection
ssh	Enables secure connection to SSH server on a remote machine

Eddie Law

Some Network Utility Commands

- dig gets IP address from a domain name address, replacing the nslookup command
 - \$ dig www.yahoo.com
- ifconfig sets up a wired network interface card (obsolete in Debian/Ubuntu)
- ip sets up network interfaces, can be used to troubleshoot networking
 - \$ ip link
 - \$ ip addr

Network Utility Commands (cont'd)

- netplan backend-agnostic network configuration tool in YAML
- netstat shows network connection information (not popular now)
- ping establishes connectivity to a remote device (try it)
- route displays routing table information (being replaced by ip route)
 - Can be Installed with \$ sudo apt install net-tools

Eddie Law

Other Network Utility Commands

- Most of them require installations
- Overall bandwidth nload, bmon, slurm, bwm-ng, cbm, speedometer, netload
- Overall bandwidth (batch style output) vnstat, ifstat, dstat, collectl
- 3. Bandwidth per socket connection iftop, iptraf, tcptrack, pktstat, netwatch, trafshow
- 4. Bandwidth per process nethogs
- We will come back more on the IP networking later!

Eddie Law

Communications Utilities (Insecure)

- wall sends a message to all logged-in users.
- mesg n denies any real-time messages
- mesg y accepts any real-time messages
- write sends a message to a user
- mail sends e-mail
- talk allows users to simultaneously 'chat' with other logged in users

Command	Brief Description of Function
mail	Sends email messages
mesg	Denies (mesg n) or accept (mesg y) messages
talk	Lets users simultaneously type messages to each other (unsafe)
wall	Sends a message to all logged in users (who have permissions set to receive messages)
write	Sends a message to another use

Eddie Law

2 -

Security Utilities

- Obsolete: ipchains
- Up-and-coming but not yet ready: bpfilter

Table 8-5 Security utilities

and the second s	
Command	Brief Description of Function
chgrp	Changes the group associated with a file or the file's group ownership
chmod	Changes the access permissions of a file or directory
chown	Changes the owner of a file

Table 8-5 Security utilities (continued)

	,
Command	Brief Description of Function
ipchains	Manages a firewall and packet filtering (do not use if you are using iptables instead)
iptables	Manages a firewall and packet filtering (do not use if you are using <i>ipchains</i> instead)
passwd	Changes a password



Programming and Source Code Management Utilities

- Linux is written in C programming language
- Get compilers with \$ sudo apt install build-essential

Table 8-6 Programming utilities

Command	Brief Description of Function
configure	Configures program source code automatically
g++	Compiles a C++ program
gcc	Compiles a C program
make	Maintains program source code
patch	Updates source code

Table 8-7 Source code management utilities (fvi only, obsolete)

Command	Brief Description of Function
ci	Creates changes in Revision Control Systems (RCS)
со	Retrieves an unencoded revision of an RCS file
CVS	Manages concurrent access to files in a hierarchy
rcs	Creates or changes the attributes of an RCS file
rlog	Prints a summary of the history of an RCS file

Eddie Law

Revisit Permission Management

- Not the encryption security
- Recalling the commands ...
- chmod ...
 - Changes the access permissions of a file or directory
- chown [newOwner] [file]
 - Changes the owner of a file or directory
- chgrp [newGroup] [file]
 - Changes the default group associated with a file

POSIX File Permission Management

- Design issues with typical Linux file permission system
 - Only one user owner and one group owner
 - Different to change with the inheritance nature
- Try
 - \$ getfacl file1
- Example:
 - \$ setfacl -m g:root:rwx file1
 - \$ getfacl file1
- Just let you get a feel of the concept of ACL (Access Control List) only

Eddie Law 31

Miscellaneous Utilities

Table 8-8 Miscellaneous utilities

Command	Brief Description of Function
at	Executes a command or script at a specified time
atq	Shows the jobs (commands or scripts) already scheduled to run
atrm	Enables you to remove a job (command or script) that is scheduled to run
batch	Runs a command or script, and is really a subset of the at command that takes you to the at> prompt, if you type only batch (in Fedora and Red Hat Enterprise Linux, a command or script is run when the system load is at an acceptable level)
cal	Displays a calendar for a month or year
cd	Changes to a directory
crontab	Schedules a command to run at a preset time
expr	Evaluates expressions (used for arithmetic and string manipulations)
fsck	Checks and fixes problems on a file system (repairs damage)
printenv	Prints environment variables
tee	Clones output stream to one or more files
tr	Replaces specified characters (a translation filter)
tty	Displays terminal path name
xargs	Converts standard output of one command into arguments for another

Eddie Law

Using the dd Command

- Copy a file and change the format of the destination file
- Options to handle copies when other methods are inappropriate such as when the format of the destination file needs to be altered
 - E.g., ASCII to EBCDIC, uppercase to lowercase, etc.
- An advantage to using the dd command over cp is that all users, not just the administrator, can copy files to and from the drive without mounting it
- Beware: no ways to restore if overwritten

Eddie Law

Using the dd Command (cont'd)

Be careful in using dd command

dd if=/dev/sda of=/dev/sdb

dd if=/dev/hda1 of=~/partition.img

dd if=/dev/hda of=~/hdadisk.img

dd if=hdadisk.img of=/dev/hdb

dd if=/dev/cdrom of=cd.iso bs=2048

(create a hard disk image) (restore using a hard disk image)

(backup the entire harddisk)

(backup a partition)

(create CDROM backup, 2048 block size)

dd if=ubuntu-20.10.iso of=/dev/sdb bs=4M status=progress oflag=sync

Commonly used options:

if=input file

of=output file

conv=ascii (converts destination format to ASCII)

conv=lcase (converts uppercase to lower)

Checking Hard Disk Usage

- To maintain adequate hard disk free space, use these strategies:
 - Be vigilant against running dangerously low on free space by using the df command
 - Watch for conspicuous consumption using the du command
 - Follow a routine schedule for "garbage" collection and removal by using the find and rm commands

Eddie Law

Using the df (disk free) Utility

- The df utility reports on the status of 1024-byte blocks that are allocated, used, and available and the mount point
- Options:
 - -h human readable form
 - k sizes in kilobytes

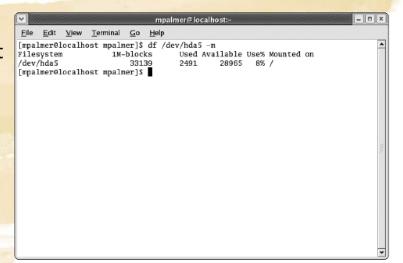


Figure 8-2 Viewing information for one file system in megabytes

Eddie Law

Using the du (disk usage) Utility

- The du utility summarizes disk usage, expressed in 1024-byte blocks (default) or by the number of bytes (-b option)
- Remark: 512-byte block for POSIXLY-CORRECT
- Options:
 - -a displays info for files/dirs
 - -c creates an ending total
 - -b displays in bytes
 - -h human readable

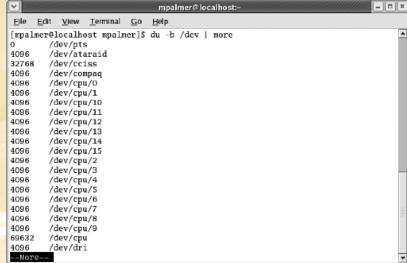


Figure 8-3 Viewing *du* information for the /dev directory

Removing Garbage Files

- Garbage files are temporary files that lose their usefulness after several days
- Two examples of garbage files are core files (named core) and a.out files
- Use the find command to assist you in locating these files and the rm command to remove them
 - On the next slide, find is used to remove garbage files, and
 - The -exec rm {} \; option tells Linux to rm all files found {} by the command

Removing Garbage Files (cont'd)

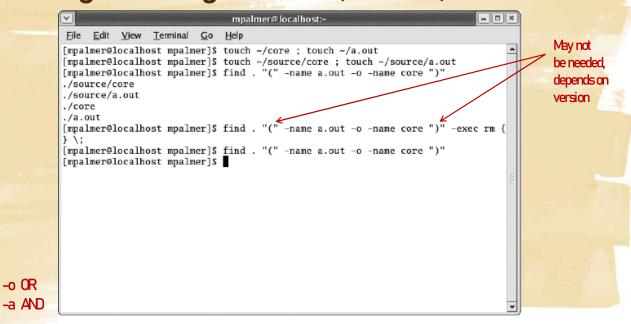


Figure 8-10 Using the find command to delete garbage files die Law

Using System Status Utilities

- System status commands reflect the system's performance
- System engineers primarily use the data related to system status
- Good to know how to obtain and store relevant information to send to system administrator and tune-up specialists

Using the top Command

- One of the most effective utilities for auditing system performance is the top command
- The top command displays a listing of the most CPU-intensive tasks in real time
- Updates every five seconds by default
- Press "q" to quit it

Eddie Law

Using the top Command (cont'd)

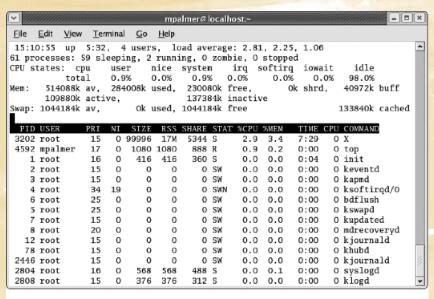


Figure 8-11 Sample top display

The top utility run without any options specified

Eddie Law

Using the uptime Command

- Uptime tells you how long a system has been running since the last time it was booted
- Displays current time, how long the system has been up, number of users on the system, and the load average for 1, 5, and 15 minutes

Eddie Law

Using the free Command (vmstat)

- The free utility displays the amount of free and used memory in the system
- Options
 - -b bytes
 - -m megabytes
 - -g gigabytes
 - -t totals



And the SL expression operator Figure 8-4 Using the free commandes more reasons parasonal usage

Eddie Law

Forwarding top and free Output

- When problems arise with performance, may need to forward top and free output to support person
- Use redirection (>) to store outputs in files

```
$ top n 3 > topdata
```

Eddie Law

Managing Processes

- A process is identified through a unique number called a process id (PID)
- Unix/Linux offer utilities to run, monitor, and kill processes using PIDs

Running Processes in the Background

- Run a process in the background while working with another program in the foreground
- To run a program in the background, append the & character to end of the startup command, e.g.,

\$ top &

Eddie Law

Monitoring Processes

- The ps command with the -A option shows a list of all system processes currently running
- Command \$ ps -aux displays all processes running in the system
- Command \$ ps f displays processes in parent-child relationships

Eddie Law

Killing Processes

- Administrator with root privileges can kill any user's processes
- User can kill own processes
- Use the kill command with the pid of the process
- Use \$ kill -9 (the sure kill) to stop a process that doesn't respond to an initial kill command
- If I have started executing a program (p1) that is running infinitely, I may kill that process with the following steps:

\$ ps (Assume the PID number of process p1 is 608) \$ kill 608

Eddie Law

Checking the Spelling of a Document

 ispell scans a document, displays errors on the screen and suggests alternative spellings

Install ispell with

\$ sudo apt install ispell

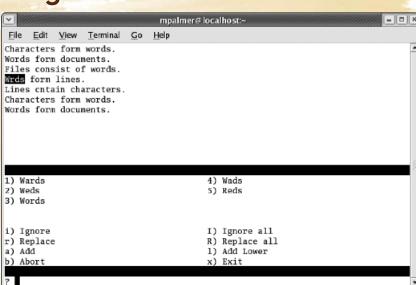


Figure 8-6 Checking the spelling in a document with ispell Eddie Law

Summary

- UNIX/Linux utilities are classified into eight major functional areas
- Utility programs are "commands": executed by entering names on the command line
- grep and regular expression
- dd command options allow it to handle copies when other copying methods fail
- df checks and reports on free disk space
- du checks for disk usage
- Use find to retrieve temporary files and use rm to remove them

Eddie Law

Summary (cont'd)

- Run a program in the background by appending & to the end of a command
- top and free provide views of the "internals" of the system that can be redirected to a file for system tune-up
- ps displays all running processes
- kill terminates a specific process
- ispell scans for spelling errors (requires installation)

