GREP (Global Regular Expression Print)

It allows us to search for some text within files on our system

Bash grep manual : print lines matching a pattern. Usage grep [Flags/Options] [Pattern] [File/Directory]

GREP flags, how to use

1. grep [No Flags/Options] “Beautiful” zen.txt = finds any text that has the word “Beautiful” in it even if that is not all the word. For example it will also print “Beautifully”
2. grep -w “Beautiful” zen.txt = this flag/option specifies that you only want whole words, hence it will not print the word “Beautifully”
3. grep -i “Beautiful” zen.txt = since grep is case sensitive meaning that it differentiate upper and lower case , it won’t print the word if the upper and lower case don’t match either hence you -I flag is to tell grep not be case sensitive. This will make grep print in the standard output all the words containing “Beautiful” regardless if it was written in upper or lower case
4. grep -in “Beautiful” zen.txt = -in flag gives you the description of the line number where grep found our match
5. grep -B/-A [Number of lines you want to see before the match] “Beautiful” zen.txt = to see the lines before/after our match (Beautiful) in the zen.txt
6. grep -C [Number of lines you want to see before the match] “Beautiful” zen.txt =(Context) to see the lines before and after our match
7. grep -win “Beautiful” ./\* = search for the word “Beautiful” in the current directory including every file even those that can’t store text using asterisk (\*)
8. grep -win “Beautiful” ./\*.txt = search for the word “Beautiful” in the current directory only in specified files that you determine after the asterisk
9. grep -r “Beautiful” . = (Recursive)if you want to search only in every single file and subdirectory in your project with the -r flag/option it sets our current directory as the starting point, in this case you can use it without the asterisk or the slash (/)
10. grep -l “Beautiful” . = (Files with matches) if you only want to see what files contains that match or pattern. It print the path to each file that has the dame pattern.
11. grep -c “Beautiful” . =(Count) If you want to see how many matches are in each file we can use -c flag
12. history | grep [Search pattern]| grep [Search pattern]: this mean you can search patterns within the pattern in history