

cat

Definition:

Used for displaying the content of a file

Usage:

- `cat + option + file(s) to display`

Examples:

- Display the content of a file located in pwd
 - `cat todo.lst`
 - Display the content of a file using absolute path
 - `cat ~/Documents/todo.lst`
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tac

Definition:

Used for displaying the content of a file in reverse order

Usage:

- `tac + option + file(s) to display`

Examples:

- Display the content of a file located in pwd
 - `tac todo.lst`
 - Display the content of a file using absolute path
 - `tac ~/Documents/todo.lst`
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head

Definition:

Displays the top N number of lines of a given file. By default, it prints the first 10 lines. If more than one file is provided then data from each file is preceded by its file name

Usage:

- `head + option + file(s)`

Examples:

- Display the first 10 lines of a file
 - `head ~/Documents/Book/dracula.txt`

- Display the first 5 lines of a file
 - `head -5 ~/Documents/Book/dracula.txt`
 - Display the first 5 lines of multiple files
 - `head -n 5 dracula.txt bible.txt war-and-peace.txt`
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tail

Definition:

Displays the last N number of lines of a given file. By default, it prints the last 10 lines. If more than one file name is provided then data from each file is preceded by its file name

Usage:

- `tail + option + file`

Examples:

- Display the first 10 lines of a file
 - `tail ~/Documents/Book/dracula.txt`
 - Display the first 5 lines of a file
 - `tail -5 ~/Documents/Book/dracula.txt`
 - Display the first 5 lines of multiple files
 - `tail -n 5 dracula.txt bible.txt war-and-peace.txt`
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cut

Definition:

Used to extract a specific section of each line of a file and display it to the screen

Usage:

- `cut + option + file(s)`

Examples:

- Display a list of all the users in your system
 - `cut -d ':' -f1 /etc/passwd`
 - Display a list of all the users in your system with their login shell
 - `cut -d ':' -f1,7 /etc/passwd`
 - Cut a range of bytes per line
 - `cut -b 1-5 usernames.txt`
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sort

Definition:

Used for sorting files The sort command supports sorting alphabetically, in reverse order, by number, and by month

Usage:

- `sort + option + file`

Examples:

- Sort a file
 - `sort users.lst`
 - Sort a file and save the output to a new file
 - `sort -o sorted.lst users.lst`
 - Sort a file in reverse order
 - `sort -r users.txt`
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WC

Definition:

Used for printing the number of lines, characters and bytes in a file

Usage:

- `wc + option + file(s)`

Examples:

- Display the number of characters in a file
 - `wc -m users.txt`
 - Display the number of lines in a file
 - `wc -l users.txt`
 - Display the number of words in a file
 - `wc -w users.txt`
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diff

Definition:

Compares files and displays the differences between them

Usage:

- `diff + option + file1 + file2`

Examples:

- Display the difference between two files
 - `diff cars.csv cars-backup.csv`

- Display the difference between two files in a column format
 - `diff -y cars.csv cars-backup.csv`
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grep

Definition:

Used to search text in given file. Grep works line by line (it matches the search criteria in a line by line basis)

Usage:

- `grep + option + search criteria + file(s)`

Examples:

- Search any line that contains the word "dracula" in the given file:
 - `grep 'dracula' ~/Documents/dracula.txt`
- Search any line that contains the word 'dracula' regardless of the case
 - `grep -i 'dracula' ~/Documents/Books/dracula.txt`
- Search any line that contains the word dracula regardless of case and with number line
 - `grep -in 'dracula' ~/Documents/Books/dracula.txt`