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sed command

Unix commands

sed command

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- Sed is a stream editor. A stream editor is used to perform basic text transformations on an input stream (a file or input from a pipeline).
- it is sed's ability to filter text in a pipeline which particularly distinguishes it from other types of editors.
- it can perform lots of functions on file like searching, find and replace, insertion or deletion.
- most common use of SED command in UNIX is for substitution or for find and replace.

examples

- Copy passwd file in your respective home directory by running below command:
  - Cp /etc/passwd $HOME

1. How to replace or substitute string using sed command
   - sed ‘s/root/SIPL/’ passwd
   - “s” specifies the substitution operation. The “/” are delimiters, root is search pattern and SIPL is replacement of search pattern
   - By default, the sed command replaces the first occurrence of the pattern in each line and it won’t replace the second, third…occurrence in every line.
2. Replacing the nth occurrence of a pattern in a line. (Edit passwd file and add 2/3 lines having pattern root)
   - sed ‘s/root/SIPL/2’ passwd
   - Above command replaces the second occurrence of the word “root” with “SIPL” in every line.

Examples

3. Replacing all the occurrence of the pattern in a line:
   - /g (global replacement) specifies the sed command to replace all the occurrences of the string in the line.
   - sed ‘s/root/SIPL/g’ passwd
4. Replacing from nth occurrence to all occurrences in a line .
   - Use the combination of /1, /2 etc and /g to replace all the patterns from the nth occurrence of a pattern in every line.
   - sed ‘s/root/SIPL/3g’ passwd
5. Replacing string on a specific line number i.e. in below example, it will be replacing 1st occurrence of pattern root by SIPL on line number 3
   - sed ‘3 s/root/SIPL/’ passwd

Examples

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6. Duplicating the replaced line with /p flag : The /p print flag prints the replaced line twice on the terminal.
   - sed ‘3 s/root/SIPL/p’ passwd
7. Printing only the replaced lines :the -n option suppresses the duplicate rows generated by the /p flag and prints the replaced lines only one time.
   - Sed –n ‘s/root/SIPL/p’ passwd
8. Replacing string on a range of lines : You can specify a range of line numbers to the sed command for replacing a string.
   - sed ‘1,3 s/root/SIPL/p’ passwd OR sed ‘3, $ s/root/SIPL/p’ passwd
9. Delete a particular line say n – sed ‘nd’ passwd
   - sed ‘5d’ passwd
10. Delete last line in file
    - Sed ‘$d’ passwd

Examples

9. Delete line from specific range
   - Sed ‘1,5 d’ passwd
10. Delete from nth to last line i.e.
   - sed ‘15, $ d’ passwd
11. Delete pattern matching line sed ‘/pattern/ d’ filename
   - Sed ‘/root/ d’ passwd
12. Insert one blank line after each line –
   - Sed G passwd
13. To insert two blank lines –
   - Sed ‘G;G’ passwd

Open passwd file and add few blank lines before proceeding for next example:

14. Delete blank lines and insert one blank line after each line –
   - sed '/^$/d' passwd

Examples

15. Delete blank lines and insert one blank line after each line –
    - Sed ‘^$/d;G’ passwd
16. Insert a blank line below every line which matches “root”
    - Sed ‘/root/G’ passwd
17. Viewing a file from x to y range –
    - Sed –n ‘2,5p’ passwd
18. View entire file except given range-
    - Sed –n ‘2,5d’ passwd
19. Numbering each line in file use “=“
    - Sed = passwd OR sed ‘=‘ passwd
20. \N append next line in output, \n to read next line in output, \t is used for tab between number and sentence –
    - sed = passwd| sed 'N;s/\n/\t/'Fdfds