Handling TEXT FILES

Linux offers a lot of command line tools for handling text. Those are ;

CAT cat is used for displaying the content of a file. Examples and usage

cat + file to display Example: cat file1 cat -n file1 (to display the content of a file with line numbers) cat -E file1 (to display $ at the end of every line)

TAC Tac command is used for displaying the content in reverse order. Examples and usage

tac + file to display tac + file1 + fil2

MORE The more command is a pager program used for displaying a text file only one page at a time. Examples and usage

p more + file to view p more -20 file2 (open the file 10 lines at a time)

LESS The less command is another pager program like more and displays the content one page at a time. Examples and usage

less + file to view less -N file1(open a file with line numbers)

HEAD The head command displays the top N number of lines of a given file. By default it is set to show only first 10 lines of code. Examples and usage

head + option + file head file1(to show the first 10 lines of a file) head -6 file1(displays the first 5 lines of a file)

DIFF The diff command compares files and displays the differences between them. Examples and usage

diff + option + file1 + file2 diff file1 file2 (to show the differences they have) diff -y file1 file2(display the difference between two files in a column format.)

TAIL The tail command displays the last N number of lines of a given file. By default it is set to 10 lines. Examples and usage

tail + option + file tail file1 (displays the last 10 lines of a file)

CUT The cut command is used to extract a specific section of each line and display it . Examples and usage

cut + option + file cut f1 file1.txt (displays the first field of each line using tab as the field operator) cut -d -f1 file1.txt (displays the first field of each line, using : as the field operator)

PASTE The paste command is used to join files horizontally in columns. Examples and usage

paste + option + file1 + file 2 paste file1.txt file2.txt paste -s file1.txt file2.txt (merge files sequentially instead of horizontally.)

SORT The sort command is used for sorting files. Sorting means arranging the content of the file in a particular order.The sort command supports sorting alphabetically, in reverse, by number and month. Examples and usage

sort file1.txt sort -o file1.txt file1.txt(sort the file and save the output to a new file.) sort -r file1.txt(sort the file in reverse order.)

WC The wc command is used for printing the number of lines, characters and bytes in a file Examples and usage

wc + option + file1 wc -c file1.txt(display the numbers of bytes in a file.) wc -l file1.txt(display the number of lines in a file)

TR The tr command is used for translating or deleting characters from standard output. Examples and usage

standard output | tr + option + set + set cat file1.txt | tr '.' ',' file2.txt(translate one character to another , in this case a period with a comma) cat program.py | tr "[:space:]" '\t'(translate white space into tabs.)

GREP The grep command is used to search a string in a file or standard output when using a pipe Examples and usage

grep + option + pattern to match + file grep "ip" file1.txt (to search for "ip" in the file) grep -i "ip" file5.txt (to search for a string in a file with case insensitivity.)

Rev Rev command is used for reversing characters position in a given text and is not commonly used. Examples and usage

rev + file1 rev file1.txt (reverse the content of a file.)

I/O Redirection In linux , inputs and output can be redirected as well as connecting multiple commands together. File descriptors are positive integers used for

Linux Standard File descriptors

File Descriptor	Abbreviation	Description
0	STDIN	Standard Input
1	STDOUT	Standard Output
2	STDERR	Standard Error

identifying open files in a given session. Examples and usage

- To redirect standard output > is used and to append >> is used
- ls -l > file1.txt , ls -l >> file1.txt
- To redirect standard error 2> is used
- cat file2.txt 2> errorfile2.txt

The pipe | The pipe allows you to redirect the standard output of a command to the standard input of another. Examples and usage

- command1 + | + command 2 | + command #
- man ls | grep "^[[:space:]] * [[:punct:]]"

Alias -A shorthand for a more complicated command. alias name of alias = "command here" Examples and usage

alias add = "git add . " alias push = "git push"