

Topics To be Covered

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1	Filters / Text Processing Commands	36-40	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Filters/ Text Processing Commands <ol style="list-style-type: none"> cut command awk command <ol style="list-style-type: none"> features of awk command Grep command egrep command Difference between grep and egrep sort command uniq command wc command diff command cmp command compress and uncompress <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tar gzip gunzip Difference between tar, gzip and gunzip Practice Questions 	Linux

1. Filters / Text Processing Commands: cut, awk, sort/

Filters or text processing commands are a set of powerful tools available on Linux and Unix-like systems that allow you to perform various operations on text files. They are designed to process textual data and provide functionality such as searching, filtering, transforming, sorting, and manipulating text.

1. 1 **The cut command** in Linux is used to extract specific columns or fields from a file or input stream. It allows you to select portions of lines based on delimiter characters or byte positions. The extracted columns can be output to the console or redirected to another file for further processing.

Here is the basic syntax of the cut command:

cut OPTIONS FILE

Some common options used with the cut command are:

- **-f, --fields:** Specifies the fields or columns to extract.
- **Example:** `cut -f 1,3 filename` will extract the first and third fields from each line of the file.

```
$ cut -d: -f '1 2' list-of-smartphones-2011.txt
Model:Company
IPhone4:Apple
Galaxy:Samsung
Optimus:LG
Sensation:HTC
IPhone4S:Apple
N9:Nokia
```

- `-d, --delimiter`: Specifies the delimiter character that separates the fields.
- Example: `cut -d "," -f 2 filename` will extract the second field using comma as the delimiter.

```
$ cut -d: -f1 list-of-smartphones-2011.txt
Model
IPhone4
Galaxy
Optimus
Sensation
IPhone4S
N9
```

- `-s, --only-delimited`: Skips lines that do not contain the delimiter character specified.
- Example: `cut -d "," -f 2 --only-delimited filename` will skip lines without a delimiter.
- `-c, --characters`: Specifies the character positions to extract.
- Example: `cut -c 1-5 filename` will extract the first five characters of each line.

```
$ cut -c 1-9 list-of-smartphones-2011.txt
Model:Com
IPhone4:A
Galaxy:Sa
Optimus:L
Sensation
IPhone4S:
N9:Nokia:
```

You
can

also combine multiple options to perform more complex operations, such as extracting specific fields using a different delimiter or extracting characters based on a range of positions.

Additionally, the `cut` command can read input from a pipe (`stdin`) if no file is specified. For example, you can use `echo` to provide input and pipe it to `cut` for processing.

Keep in mind that the `cut` command operates on fixed-width fields or fields separated by a specific delimiter. If you're working with more complex structures, such as structured data files, CSV files, or tab-separated values, other tools like `awk` or `sed` may be more suitable for processing.

For more details and advanced usage options, refer to the `cut` manual page (`man cut`) or consult the online documentation.

1. 2. **The `awk` command** is a versatile text processing tool that allows you to perform complex operations on text files, including data extraction, manipulation, and reporting. It operates on a per-line basis and processes input based on user-defined patterns and actions.

Here is the basic syntax of the `awk` command:

`awk 'pattern { action }' input_file`

Some key aspects of the `awk` command are:

- **pattern:** Specifies a pattern or condition that determines which lines to process. If omitted, the action block is applied to all lines.
- **action:** Defines the action or set of commands to be executed when the pattern is matched. It can include various operations, such as printing, calculations, conditionals, loops, and more.

1.2 a Here are a few common uses and features of the `awk` command:

1. Field Extraction and Manipulation:

- **Accessing Fields:** `awk` treats each line as a set of fields, separated by a specified delimiter (by default, whitespace). You can access and manipulate these fields using the `$` symbol followed by the field number. For example, `$1` refers to the first field, `$2` to the second field, and so on.
- **Field Separators:** You can define a custom field separator using the `-F` option. For example, `-F ','` sets the delimiter as a comma.

2. Printing:

- **Print Statements:** You can use the `print` statement to output text or field values. For example, `print $1` will print the first field of each line.

- **Formatting Output:** awk supports formatting output using printf statements. For example, `printf "Name: %s, Age: %d\n", $1, $2` will print formatted output.

```
root@nginx:~# awk ' {print $0}' file.txt
Item      Model    Country  Cost
1         BMW      Germany  $25000
2         Volvo    Sweden   $15000
3         Subaru   Japan    $2500
4         Ferrari  Italy    $2000000
5         SAAB     USA      $3000
```

3. Conditionals and Loops:

- **If-Else Statements:** You can use if and else statements to perform conditional operations based on certain criteria.
- **Loops:** awk supports while, for, and do-while loops to iterate over data or perform repetitive tasks.

```
awk '{

if (! ($3 ~ /[0-9]+$\/))
{
    print "Age is just a number but you do not have a number"
}
else if ($3<20)
{
    print "Student "$2,"of department", $4, "is less than 20 years old"
}
else
{
    print "Student "$2,"of department", $4, "is more than 20 years old"
}

}' students.txt
```

4. Built-in Variables and Functions:

- NR: Represents the current record (line) number.
- NF: Represents the number of fields in the current line.
- length(): Calculates the length of a string.
- tolower(), toupper(): Converts a string to lowercase or uppercase, respectively.
- Many more built-in variables and functions are available for text manipulation.

The `awk` command offers a wide range of capabilities for text processing and data extraction. It is particularly useful when working with structured data or log files. For

```
$ grep -r "linux" *
```

advanced usage and more complex scenarios, refer to the `awk` manual page

(`man awk`) or explore online resources and tutorials.

2. Grep command

The `grep` command in Linux is used to search for text patterns within files or input streams. It allows you to find lines that match a specified pattern and display them as output. `grep` stands for "Global Regular Expression Print."

Here is the basic syntax of the `grep` command:

`grep OPTIONS PATTERN FILE`

Some common options used with the `grep` command are:

- **-i, --ignore-case:** Ignores case distinctions, so the search is case-insensitive.
 - **Example:** `grep -i "pattern" filename`
- **-v, --invert-match:** Selects non-matching lines. Displays lines that do not contain the specified pattern.
 - **Example:** `grep -v "pattern" filename`

```
debian10:~$ grep -v "account" testfile3
```


- **-r, --recursive:** Recursively searches for the pattern in all files and directories within a directory.

- **Example:** `grep -r "pattern" directory`

```
$ grep -r "linux" *
```

- **-l, --files-with-matches:** Prints only the names of files that contain the matching pattern.

- **Example:** `grep -l "pattern" filename`

- **-n, --line-number:** Displays line numbers along with the matching lines.

- **Example:** `grep -n "pattern" filename`

The `grep` command can also take input from a pipe (`stdin`) if no file is specified. For example, you can use the output of another command as input to `grep`.

Additionally, `grep` supports regular expressions, allowing you to use powerful pattern-matching capabilities. You can specify simple patterns or more complex expressions to match specific text patterns.

Here are a few examples of using `grep`:

- `grep "word" filename:` Searches for lines containing the word "word" in the specified file.
- `grep -i "pattern" filename:` Searches for lines containing the case-insensitive pattern match.
- `grep -r "pattern" directory:` Recursively searches for the pattern within all files in the specified directory.
- `grep "pattern" file1 file2:` Searches for the pattern in multiple files.

The `grep` command provides a flexible and efficient way to search for specific text patterns in files or streams. For more details and advanced usage options, refer to the `grep` manual page (`man grep`) or consult the online documentation.

3. `egrep` Command

The `egrep` command is a variant of the `grep` command, used for pattern matching and searching text files. It is available in Unix-like operating systems, including Linux.

The `egrep` command allows you to search for text using regular expressions, which are powerful patterns that can match complex string patterns. It is essentially an extended version of the `grep` command, supporting a wider range of regular expressions.

The basic syntax of the `egrep` command is as follows:

`egrep [options] pattern [file(s)]`

Here's a breakdown of the components:

- `egrep`: The command itself.

- [options]: Optional flags that modify the behaviour of the command. Some common options include:
 - -i: Ignore case (perform a case-insensitive search).
 - -v: Invert the match, i.e., show lines that do not match the pattern.
 - -r: Recursively search files in directories.
- pattern: The regular expression pattern you want to search for.
- [file(s)]: Optional argument specifying the file(s) to search. If not provided, `egrep` reads from standard input.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the usage of `egrep`:

```
bash-3.2$ cat first
Hello
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$ egrep "hello" first
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$ egrep "Hello" first
Hello
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
```

1. Search for the word "hello" in a file named file.txt:

```
egrep "hello" file.txt
```

2. Perform a case-insensitive search for "apple" in multiple files:

```
egrep -i "apple" file1.txt file2.txt
```

```
[bash-3.2$  
[bash-3.2$ egrep "Hello" first third second  
first:Hello  
bash-3.2$
```

3. Search for lines that start with "Error" in a log file:

```
egrep "^Error" logfile.txt
```

4. Invert the match and search for lines not containing "success":

```
egrep -v "success" file.txt
```

These are just a few examples of the `egrep` command's usage. There are many more options and features available, which you can explore by referring to the command's documentation (`man egrep`).

4. Difference between grep and egrep

The main difference between `grep` and `egrep` lies in the type of regular expressions they support.

1. Basic Regular Expressions (BRE):

`grep` uses Basic Regular Expressions by default. In BRE, certain characters have special meaning, such as `?`, `+`, `{}`, `|`, and `()`. To match these special characters literally, you need to escape them with a backslash (`\`).

2. Extended Regular Expressions (ERE):

`egrep` uses Extended Regular Expressions by default. ERE supports a wider range of special characters and metacharacters without the need for escaping. For example, `?`, `+`, `{}`, `|`, and `()` have their special meaning directly without needing a backslash.

In summary, the main difference between `grep` and `egrep` is that `egrep` supports a more extensive set of regular expressions, making it easier to write complex patterns without the need for escaping certain characters.

However, it's worth noting that modern versions of `grep` (such as GNU `grep`) often include the `-E` option to enable Extended Regular Expressions, which makes `grep` functionally equivalent to `egrep`. This means you can achieve the same results using either `grep -E` or `egrep`. The `egrep` command is still useful for compatibility with older systems or scripts that rely on it specifically.

5. Sort Command

3. **The sort command** in Linux is used to sort the lines of a text file or input stream in a specific order. It takes the input, arranges it based on specified criteria, and produces the sorted output. By default, the `sort` command sorts the input in ascending order, line by line.

Here is the basic syntax of the `sort` command:

`sort` OPTIONS FILE

Some common options used with the `sort` command are:

- `-r, --reverse`: Sorts the input in descending order.
 - Example: `sort -r filename`

```
root@ubuntu:~# sort -r f3
g
b
a
G
B
A
root@ubuntu:~#
```

- `-n, --numeric-sort`: Sorts the input numerically instead of lexicographically.
 - Example: `sort -n filename`

```
root@ubuntu:~# cat f3
A b 1
G c 2
B A 5
a Z 3
b z 10
g 0 0.5
root@ubuntu:~# sort -nr f3
g 0 0.5
b z 10
a Z 3
G c 2
B A 5
A b 1
```

- `-k, --key`: Specifies the key or field to sort on.
 - Example: `sort -k 2 filename` sorts based on the second field.

```
root@ubuntu:~# cat f3
A b
G c
B A
a Z
b z
g 0
root@ubuntu:~# sort -k2 f3
g 0
B A
a Z
A b
G c
b z
root@ubuntu:~#
```

- **-t, --field-separator:** Specifies the field separator character.
 - Example: `sort -t ',' -k 3 filename` sorts based on the third field using a comma as the delimiter.
- **-u, --unique:** Filters out duplicate lines in the sorted output.
 - Example: `sort -u filename`


```
root@ubuntu:~# cat f1
hi
hi
HI
Hi! How are you?
How are you!
Hello! I'm fine
root@ubuntu:~# sort -u f1
HI
Hello! I'm fine
Hi! How are you?
How are you!
hi
root@ubuntu:~#
```

The **sort** command can also read input from a pipe (**stdin**) if no file is specified. For example, you can use the output of another command as input to **sort**.

Additionally, the **sort** command can handle large files and files with multiple columns. It uses a stable sorting algorithm by default, preserving the original order of lines with equal keys.

Keep in mind that **sort** works on a per-line basis and treats each line as a separate unit for sorting. If you need more complex sorting requirements or custom sorting criteria, you can use the **-k** option to specify multiple keys and customize the sorting behavior.

For more details and advanced usage options, refer to the `sort` manual page (`man sort`) or consult the online documentation.

6. Uniq Command

The **uniq** command is a Unix/Linux command-line utility used to filter adjacent duplicate lines in a file or from standard input. It compares each line with the one immediately following it and removes any duplicate lines, leaving only unique lines in the output.

The basic syntax of the `uniq` command is as follows:

uniq [options] [input [output]]

Here's a breakdown of the components:

- **uniq**: The command itself.
 - **[options]**: Optional flags that modify the behavior of the command. Some common options include:
 - **-c**: Precede each line with the count of occurrences.
 - **-d**: Only output duplicate lines, skipping unique lines.
 - **-u**: Only output unique lines, skipping duplicate lines.
 - **[input]**: Optional argument specifying the input file to process. If not provided, `uniq` reads from standard input.
 - **[output]**: Optional argument specifying the output file to write the result. If not provided, the result is displayed on the terminal.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the usage of the `uniq` command:

1. Remove adjacent duplicate lines in a file named `file.txt` and display the unique lines:

```
uniq file.txt
```

```
$ sort file2 | uniq -c
  3 Budhha
  1 ChhatrapatiShahuMaharaj
  3 Dr.B.R.Ambedkar
```

2. Count the occurrences of each line in a file and display the count along with the line:

```
uniq -c file.txt
```

```
$ sort file2 | uniq -d
Budhha
Dr.B.R.Ambedkar
```

3. Display only the duplicate lines in a file:

```
uniq -d file.txt
```

```
$ sort file2 | uniq -u
ChhatrapatiShahuMaharaj
```

4. Display only the unique lines in a file:

```
uniq -u file.txt
```

5. Read input from standard input and display the unique lines:

```
echo -e "apple\nbanana\napple\norange" | uniq
```

These examples showcase some of the common uses of the `uniq` command. By default, `uniq` considers adjacent lines for comparison, so it is essential to ensure that the duplicate lines are consecutive for effective removal. For more details and advanced usage, you can refer to the `uniq` command's documentation (`man uniq`).

7 wc command

The `wc` command is a Unix/Linux command-line utility used to display information about the number of lines, words, and characters in a file or from standard input. It stands for "word count."

The basic syntax of the `wc` command is as follows:

`wc [options] [file(s)]`

Here's a breakdown of the components:

- `wc``: The command itself.
- `[options]`: Optional flags that modify the behavior of the command. Some common options include:
 - `-l`: Display the number of lines.
 - `-w`: Display the number of words.
 - `-c`: Display the number of characters.

- `-m`: Display the number of characters (equivalent to `-c`).
- `[file(s)]`: Optional argument specifying the file(s) to process. If not provided, `wc` reads from standard input.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the usage of the `wc` command:

1. Display the number of lines, words, and characters in a file named `file.txt`:

```
wc file.txt
```

```
bash-3.2$ cat first
Hello
bye
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$ wc -l first
      2 first
bash-3.2$
```

2. Display only the number of lines in a file:

```
wc -l file.txt
```

3. Display only the number of words in a file:

```
bash-3.2$ wc -w first
      2 first
bash-3.2$
bash-3.2$
```

```
wc -w file.txt
```

```
bash-3.2$  
bash-3.2$ wc -c first  
    10 first  
bash-3.2$  
bash-3.2$
```

4. Display only the number of characters in a file:

```
wc -c file.txt
```

5. Read input from standard input and display the number of lines, words, and

characters:

```
bash-3.2$ echo -e "Hello, world" | wc  
    1      2     13  
bash-3.2$  
bash-3.2$  
bash-3.2$
```

```
echo -e  
"Hello,  
world!" | wc
```

These examples demonstrate some of the common uses of the `WC` command. The output includes the total count as well as individual counts for each file specified. For more details and advanced usage, you can refer to the `WC` command's documentation (`man wc`).

8. diff Command

The `diff` command is a Unix/Linux command-line utility used to compare two files or directories and display the differences between them. It shows the added, removed, and modified lines or files, highlighting the changes between the compared versions.

The basic syntax of the `diff` command is as follows:

diff [options] file1 file2

Here's a breakdown of the components:

- **diff**: The command itself.
 - **[options]**: Optional flags that modify the behavior of the command. Some common options include:
 - **-u** or **--unified**: Output a unified diff format, which provides context around the changes.
 - **-c** or **--context**: Output a context diff format, similar to unified diff but with more context lines.
 - **-r** or **--recursive**: Recursively compare directories and their contents.
- **file1** and **file2**: The files or directories to compare. If comparing directories, the command compares corresponding files in both directories.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the usage of the **diff** command:

```
bash-3.2$ diff -u first second
--- first      2023-06-21 11:56:12
+++ second     2023-06-20 12:00:01
@@ -1,2 +0,0 @@
-Hello
-bye
bash-3.2$
```

1. Compare two files and display the differences in unified diff format:

```
diff -u file1.txt file2.txt
```

2. Compare two directories and display the differences in context diff format:

```
bash-3.2$  
bash-3.2$ diff -c -r first second  
*** first      Wed Jun 21 11:56:12 2023  
--- second     Tue Jun 20 12:00:01 2023  
*****  
*** 1,2 ****  
- Hello  
- bye  
--- 0 ----  
bash-3.2$
```

```
diff -c -r dir1  
dir2
```

```
[bash-3.2$ diff -q first second  
Files first and second differ  
bash-3.2$
```

3. Compare two files and suppress the output. The command exits with a status indicating whether the files are different:

```
diff -q file1.txt file2.txt
```

4. Compare two directories and generate a patch file containing the differences:

```
diff -u dir1 dir2 > patch.diff
```


These examples illustrate some of the common uses of the `diff` command. It provides a powerful way to identify and understand the differences between files or directories. For more details and advanced usage, you can refer to the `diff` command's documentation (`man diff`).

9 cmp command

The `cmp` command is a Unix/Linux command-line utility used to compare two files byte by byte. It identifies the first differing byte and reports its offset in the files. If the files are identical, no output is produced.

The basic syntax of the `cmp` command is as follows:

`cmp [options] file1 file2`

Here's a breakdown of the components:

- `cmp`: The command itself.
 - `[options]`: Optional flags that modify the behavior of the command. Some common options include:
 - `-l` or `--verbose`: Display the byte number and differing byte values.
 - `-s` or `--quiet` or `--silent`: Suppress normal output. Only return the exit status indicating whether the files are different or not.
- `file1` and `file2`: The two files to compare.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the usage of the `cmp` command:

```
bash-3.2$ cmp -l first second
cmp: EOF on second
bash-3.2$
```

1. Compare two files and display the differing byte and its offset:

```
cmp -l file1.txt file2.txt
```

2. Compare two files and suppress normal output. Only return the exit status:

```
cmp -s file1.txt file2.txt
```

These examples demonstrate the basic usage of the `cmp` command. It provides a way to compare files at a binary level. For more details and advanced usage, you can refer to the `cmp` command's documentation (`man cmp`).

c. Difference between `diff` and `cmp`

The main difference between the `diff` and `cmp` commands lies in their purpose and the level of detail they provide when comparing files.

1. Purpose:

- `diff`: The `diff` command is primarily used to compare and display the differences between two text files. It shows the added, removed, and modified lines, highlighting the changes between the compared files. It provides a more comprehensive and human-readable output that helps understand the differences at a line or context level.
- `cmp`: The `cmp` command, on the other hand, compares two files byte by byte. It focuses on identifying the first differing byte and reporting its offset in the files. Its primary purpose is to check for binary differences between files and determine if they are identical or not.

2. Output:

- **diff**: The **diff** command generates a textual output that shows the specific lines that differ between the files, providing context and highlighting the changes. It provides a more detailed and user-friendly output format, often in the form of a unified or context diff.
- **cmp**: The **cmp** command produces output only when it encounters a difference between the compared files. By default, it reports the byte number and differing byte values. It is a more concise and low-level output, suitable for binary comparison.

3. Usage:

- **diff**: The **diff** command is commonly used for comparing text files, identifying differences in code, configurations, or any human-readable files. It is often used in conjunction with version control systems or for creating patches to apply changes between versions.
- **cmp**: The **cmp** command is useful for comparing binary files, such as executables or any files where the byte-level comparison is necessary. It can determine whether files are identical or not, based on their binary content.

In summary, **diff** is suitable for comparing text files, providing a detailed and contextualized output of the differences, while **cmp** is more focused on binary comparison, determining file identity, and reporting byte-level differences.

10. Compress and uncompress

10.1 tar command

The **tar** command is a Unix/Linux command-line utility used for creating, manipulating, and extracting archive files in the tar format. Tar stands for "tape archive," and it is commonly used for bundling multiple files and directories into a single archive file.

The basic syntax of the **tar** command is as follows:

tar [options] [archive-file] [file(s) or directory]

Here's a breakdown of the components:

- **tar**: The command itself.
- **[options]**: Optional flags that modify the behavior of the command. Some common options include:
 - **-c**: Create a new archive file.
 - **-x**: Extract files from an archive.
 - **-t**: List the contents of an archive.
 - **-f <archive-file>**: Specify the archive file to create, extract, or operate on.
 - **-v**: Verbose mode. Display detailed information about the files being processed.
 - **-z**: Compress the archive using gzip.
 - **-j**: Compress the archive using bzip2.
 - **-C <directory>**: Change to the specified directory before performing any operations.
 - **[archive-file]**: Optional argument specifying the name of the archive file to create, extract, or operate on. If not provided, tar reads from or writes to standard input/output.
 - **[file(s) or directory]**: Optional argument specifying the file(s) or directory to include in the archive or extract from the archive.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the usage of the tar command:

1. Create a tar archive of a directory named **myfiles**:

```
tar -cvf archive.tar myfiles
```

2. Extract the contents of a tar archive file named _____ :

```
tar -xvf archive.tar
```

3. List the contents of a tar archive file named _____ :

```
tar -tvf archive.tar
```

4. Create a compressed tar archive using gzip:

```
tar -czvf archive.tar.gz myfiles
```

5. Extract a compressed tar archive using gzip:

```
tar -xzf archive.tar.gz
```

These examples demonstrate some of the common uses of the tar command. It provides a flexible way to create archives, add files to them, extract files, and perform various operations on tar files. For more details and advanced usage, you can refer to the tar command's documentation (man tar).

10.2 gzip Command

The **gzip** command is a Unix/Linux command-line utility used for compressing and decompressing files. It is commonly used to reduce the size of files and to save bandwidth when transferring files over the network.

The basic syntax of the **gzip** command is as follows:

To compress a file:

```
gzip [options] [file(s)]
```

To decompress a file:

```
gzip -d [options] [compressed-file(s)]
```

Here's a breakdown of the components:

- **gzip**: The command itself.
- **[options]**: Optional flags that modify the behavior of the command. Some common options include:
 - **-c**: Write the compressed output to standard output instead of modifying the input file(s).

- **-d**: Decompress the specified file(s).
- **-r**: Recursively compress or decompress files in directories.
- **-v**: Verbose mode. Display detailed information about the compression or decompression process.
- **-k**: Keep the original file(s) when compressing or decompressing. By default, **gzip** replaces the input file(s) with the compressed or decompressed version.
- **[file(s)]**: The file(s) to compress. Multiple files can be specified for compression, and wildcard characters can be used to match multiple files. When decompressing, the compressed file(s) are specified.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the usage of the **gzip** command:

1. Compress a file named **file.txt** and replace it with the compressed version:

```
gzip file.txt
```

5. Compress multiple files and keep the original files:

```
gzip -k file1.txt file2.txt
```

6. Decompress a file named **file.txt.gz** and replace it with the decompressed version:

```
gzip -d file.txt.gz
```

7. Decompress multiple files and keep the original compressed files:

```
gzip -dk file1.txt.gz file2.txt.gz
```

8. Compress all files in a directory and its subdirectories recursively:

```
gzip -r directory/
```

These examples demonstrate some of the common uses of the `gzip` command. It provides a convenient way to compress and decompress files, reducing their size for storage or transmission. For more details and advanced usage, you can refer to the `gzip` command's documentation (`man gzip`).

10.3 gunzip command

The `gunzip` command is a Unix/Linux command-line utility used specifically for decompressing files that have been compressed with the `gzip` compression format. It is the counterpart to the `gzip` command and is often used to decompress files with the `.gz` extension.

The basic syntax of the `gunzip` command is as follows:

```
gunzip [options] [compressed-file(s)]
```

Here's a breakdown of the components:

- **gunzip**: The command itself.
 - **[options]**: Optional flags that modify the behavior of the command. Some common options include:
 - **-c**: Write the decompressed output to standard output instead of modifying the input file(s).
 - **-k**: Keep the original compressed file(s) after decompression. By default, `gunzip` removes the compressed file(s) once decompression is complete.
 - **-v**: Verbose mode. Display detailed information about the decompression process.
 - **[compressed-file(s)]**: The file(s) to decompress. Multiple files can be specified for decompression, and wildcard characters can be used to match multiple files.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the usage of the `gunzip` command:

1. Decompress a file named `file.txt.gz` and replace it with the decompressed version:

```
gunzip file.txt.gz
```

2. Decompress a file named `file.txt.gz` and keep the original compressed file:

```
gunzip -k file.txt.gz
```

3. Decompress a file named `file.txt.gz` and output the decompressed contents to standard output:

```
gunzip -c file.txt.gz
```

4. Decompress multiple files and keep the original compressed files:

```
gunzip -k file1.txt.gz file2.txt.gz
```

These examples demonstrate the basic usage of the `gunzip` command. It is specifically designed for decompressing files in the `gzip` format. For more details and advanced usage, you can refer to the `gunzip` command's documentation (`man gunzip`).

11 Difference between tar, gzip and gunzip

`tar`, `gzip`, and `gunzip` are three distinct commands that serve different purposes in file compression and archiving:

1. **tar:**

- **Purpose:** The `tar` command is used for creating archive files that bundle multiple files and directories together into a single file.
- **Syntax:** `tar [options] [archive-file] [file(s) or directory]`
 - **Key Points:**
 - `tar` creates an uncompressed archive file by default.
 - It does not perform compression itself but can work in conjunction with compression utilities like `gzip` or `bzip2` to create compressed archives.
 - It preserves the file structure and metadata (permissions, ownership, timestamps) of the archived files.
 - It can also perform extraction and listing operations on archive files.

2. **gzip:**

- **Purpose:** The `gzip` command is used for compressing files using the `gzip` compression algorithm.
- **Syntax:** `gzip [options] [file(s)]`
 - **Key Points:**
 - `gzip` compresses individual files, creating a compressed file with the `.gz` extension.
 - It replaces the original file with the compressed version by default.
 - It is typically used for compressing single files rather than creating archive files.

- **gzip** achieves good compression ratios with relatively fast compression and decompression speeds.

3. **gunzip:**

- **Purpose:** The **gunzip** command is used specifically for decompressing files that have been compressed with the **gzip** compression format.
- **Syntax:** **gunzip** [options] [compressed-file(s)]
 - **Key Points:**
 - **gunzip** is the counterpart to **gzip** and is used for decompressing files with the **.gz** extension.
 - It restores the original file by decompressing the **.gz** file.
 - It removes the compressed file after decompression by default.
 - It works solely for decompressing **gzip**-compressed files and does not create archives or perform other operations.

In summary, **tar** is used for creating archive files, **gzip** for compressing individual files using **gzip** compression, and **gunzip** for decompressing files that have been compressed with **gzip**. These commands can be used in combination to create compressed archive files, such as using **tar** to create an archive and **gzip** to compress it, and then **gunzip** to decompress the archive file when needed.