12 - Awk/Gawk, More Git Branching

CS 2043: Unix Tools and Scripting, Spring 2016 [1]

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Some Logistics

- HW2 is online...officially!
- Subtle changes to `README.md`, none that are important except:
  - (OH Yesterday): I am giving sample files.
  - Lecture 08 demo will be updated soon: using different separators in `sed`.
  - Excellent Piazza question: why is `read` behaving this way?
  - Directory structure sort of changed, but only in that you get more files. No changes to instructions.
  - Challenge task at end.
  - You are FORBIDDEN from using today's lecture in `HW2`, except for the `gandalfify_extreme.sh` challenge question.
- (Poll) should I even cover Python?

AWK / GAWK

awk Introduction

- **awk** is a programming language designed for processing text-based data.
  - Allows easy operation on fields rather than full lines.
  - Works in a *pattern-action* manner, like **sed**.
  - Supports numerical types (and operations).
  - Supports control-flow (e.g. **if-else** statements).
- Created at Bell Labs in the 1970s.
  - Alfred Aho, Peter Weinberger, and Brian Kenrighan.
  - An ancestor of **perl**, a *cousin* of **sed**.
- Very powerful.
  - It's *Turing Complete*!

gawk

- **gawk** is the GNU implementation of the **awk** programming language.
- On BSD/OSX, it is just called **awk**.
- On GNU, it is technically **gawk**. But should reliably be "symlinked" as **awk**.
- **awk** allows us to setup filters to handle text as easily as numbers.
- The basic structure of an **awk** program is:

```
pattern1 { commands }
pattern2 { commands }
...
```

- Patterns can be regular expressions!
  - Proceeds line by line, checking each pattern one by one, executing `commands` if `pattern` is found.

Why use **awk** over **sed**?

- Convenient numerical processing.
- Variables and control flow in the actions.
- Convenient way of accessing fields within lines.
- Flexible printing.
- Built-in arithmetic and string functions.

Simple Examples

`awk '/[Mm]onster/ {print}' frankenstein.txt`

- Print all lines containing `Monster` or `monster`.

`awk '/[Mm]onster/' frankenstein.txt`

- If no action specified, default is to print the whole line.

`awk '/[Mm]onster/ {print $0}' frankenstein.txt`

- The `$0` variable in `awk` refers to the *whole line*.

`awk '/[Mm]onster/ {print $1}' frankenstein.txt`

- The first item. Can be delimited by something other than whitespace, just like `sed`.

- `awk` understand extended regular expressions by default :)
  - We don't need to escape `+`, `?`, etc!

BEGIN and **END**

- **awk** allows blocks of code to be executed only once, at the beginning / end.
- With the script **monstrosity.awk** and **frankenstein.txt** in current directory:

```
#!/usr/bin/awk -f
BEGIN { print "Starting search for monster..." }
/[Mm]onster/{ count++ }
END { print "Found " count " monsters in the book." }
```

- Use the **-f** in conjunction with shebang to cheat **awk** (it uses the script itself).

```
>>> ./monstrosity.awk                          # hangs...
>>> ./monstrosity.awk frankenstein.txt         # yay!
>>> awk -f monstrosity.awk frankenstein.txt # yay!
```

Important Variables

- `NF`: the number of fields in the current line.
- `NR`: the number of lines read so far.
  - You cannot change `NF` or `NR`.
- `FILENAME`: the name of the input file.
- `FS`: the `field separator`.
  - Change `FS=","` for a `csv`.
  - Can also specify the `-F` flag for the `FS`.

Matching and **awk**

- `awk` can match any of the following pattern types:
  - `/regular expression/`
  - `relational expression`
  - `pattern && pattern`
  - `pattern || pattern`
  - `pattern1 ? pattern2: pattern3`
    - If `pattern1`, then match `pattern2`. Otherwise, match `pattern3`.
  - `(pattern)`: parenthesis to group / change order of operations.
  - `! pattern` to invert.
  - `pattern1, pattern2`: match `pattern1`, work on every line until it matches `pattern2`.
    - Cannot combine this...

Much Much More...

- Regular expression usage / comparisons:

  https://www.gnu.org/software/gawk/manual/html_node/Regexp-Usage.html#index-_0021-_0028exclamation-point_0029_002c-_0021_007e-operator
- More comparison operations:

  https://www.gnu.org/software/gawk/manual/html_node/Comparison-Operators.html#Comparison-Operators
- Powerful built-in functions:
  - `toupper()`
  - `tolower()`
  - `exp(x)`: exponential of `x`
  - `rand()`: random number between `0` and `1`
  - `length(x)`: length of `x`
  - `log(x)`: returns the log of `x`
  - `sin(x)`: returns the sin of `x`
  - `int(x)`: convert to integer
  - etc
- Wealth of information: http://www.grymoire.com/Unix/Awk.html

More Branching

Branching Continued

Lecture slides...PART II!

References I

[1] B. Abrahao, H. Abu-Libdeh, N. Savva, D. Slater, and others over the years.
Previous cornell cs 2043 course slides.