Challenge 2: Piping, Grep, Awk, and Redirecting Output

When our Linux machine boots up we are often presented with many diagnostic messages that tell us what is going on during the boot process. Sometimes these are hidden, or they just move too fast to really read what is going on. However, these messages are often logged for further viewing.

Step By Step Guide:

- Login as the root user.
- Open a terminal and cd to the directory where log files are kept. (Hint, start at /)
- You are looking for a file kern.log.
- Once you find it, display the contents of the file.

- You may have more than one day's diagnostic messages in this file.
- Pipe the output of the cat command to grep.
- Use grep to only look at the current day's messages.
- You can grep patterns with spaces by putting the pattern in quotes ' '.

- There still seems to be a lot of information here.
- We only want to look at information that contains information about usb devices.
- Use grep again to only look for lines that contain the pattern usb.

- There still seems to be a lot of information here.
- When a usb device is found, it looks like we get some information about the device such as it's idVendor and idProduct.
- Use grep again to only look for these types of lines.
- You choose the search pattern.

- I only want the idVendor and idProduct.
- Use awk to select the correct fields representing the idVendor and idProduct
- Make sure to choose and appropriate field delimiter.

- Redirect this output to a file on the desktop called usb_info.
- Open up a web browser and google USB ID Database.
- Enter in your found idVendor and idProduct numbers to gather information about your usb devices.

- Clean up after yourself by removing the document from the desktop.