cut

cut [option] [file]

* Specifying an **[option]** is necessary

**Options:**

-f (--fields=LIST) -> Specifies which fields to extract from the input based on a delimiter.

-b (--bytes=LIST) -> Instructs which bytes are to be extracted from each input line.

-c (--characters=LIST) -> Specifies which characters are to be extracted from each input line.

--complement -> Instructs cut to display all the bytes, characters, or fields except the

selected ones.

-d (--delimiter) -> Specifies a delimiter to use instead of the default tab delimiter.

**--output-delimiter ->** Allows you to specify a different output delimiter. By default, cut uses the input delimiter as the output delimiter.

* The **-f**, **-b**, and **-c** options use the **LIST** argument to select specific fields, bytes, or characters. Provide a single number (**N**), a list of numbers separated by commas or ranges of numbers.

A range like **N-** means "from **N** to the end of the line," while **N-M** means "from **N** to **M**." A range like **-M** selects from the start to **M**.

**Linux cut with Field Selection:**

**cut -c [LIST] [file]**

**Example File:**

name,age,city

Alice,30,New York

Bob,25,Los Angeles

Charlie,35,Chicago

**Examples:**

cut -c 1,5 example.csv

**Result:**

**n,**

**Ae**

**B2**

**Cl**

**Example:**

who | cut -c 1-4

who | cut -c 1-4,18-

* The command extracts the first four characters of each username and the character positions starting from 18 to the end of the line, allowing you to view usernames and their login times.

cut -b 1 example.csv

**Field Selection Based on Field Numbers:**

**Syntax: cut -d [delimiter] [file]**

**cut -d ',' -f2 example.csv**

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* **NOTE:** The default delimiter for the cut command is the tab character. This means that if you do not specify a delimiter using the -d option, cut assumes the fields in your input are separated by tab

cut -d',' -f 1,3 --output-delimiter='\_' example.csv

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head -n 3 example.csv | cut -d ',' -f1,3

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**Handling Irregular Data Formats:**

* For instance, if the data is separated by multiple spaces or inconsistent delimiters, use tr (translate) or sed to normalize the delimiters

cat data.txt | tr -s ' ' | cut -d ' ' -f1,3

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* Moreover, if your data uses mixed delimiters, such as spaces and commas, use **sed** to convert all delimiters into a single format. For example, the following file contains data with both commas and spaces as delimiters:

sed 's/ /,/g' data.txt | cut -d ',' -f1,3

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