

# xargs

xargs takes lines from stdin and converts them into command line arguments

```
$ echo "/home\n/tmp"  
      | xargs ls  
will run  
ls /home /tmp
```

this is useful when you want to run the same command on a list of files!

- delete (xargs rm)
- combine (xargs cat)
- search (xargs grep)
- replace (xargs sed)

how to replace "foo" with "bar" in all .txt files:

```
find . -name '*.txt' |  
xargs sed -i s/foo/bar/g
```

how to lint every Python file in your Git repo:

```
git ls-files | grep.py |  
xargs pep8
```

if there are spaces in your filenames "my day.txt" xargs will think it's 2 files "my" and "day.txt"

fix it like this:

```
find . -print0 |  
xargs -0 COMMAND
```

more useful xargs options

**-n 1** makes xargs run a separate program max-args for every input

**-P** is the max number of parallel processes max-procs xargs will start