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Notes 5: Handling Files Part 1

cat

The cat command is used for displaying the content of a file.

- Usage:
 - `cat + option + file(s) to display`
- Examples:
 - Display the content of a file located in the pwd.
 - `cat todo.lst`
 - display the content of a file using absolute path.
 - `cat ~/Documents/todo.lst`

tac

The tac command is used for displaying the content of a file in reverse order.

- Usage:
 - `tac + option + file(s) to display`
- Examples:
 - Display the content of a file located in the pwd.
 - `tac todo.md`
 - display the content of a file using absolute path.
 - `tac ~/Documents/todo.md`

head

The head command displays the top N number of lines of a given file. Prints the first 10 lines by default.

- Usage:
 - `head + option + file(s)`
- Examples:
 - Display first 10 lines of a file.
 - `head ~/Document/Book/dracula.txt`
 - Display first 5 line sof a file.
 - `head -5 ~/Documents/Book/dracula.txt`

tail

The tail command displays the last N number of lines of a given file.

- Usage:
 - `tail + option + file(s)`
- Examples:
 - Display last 10 lines of a file.

- `tail ~/Document/Book/dracula.txt`
- Display last 5 line sof a file.
 - `tail -5 ~/Documents/Book/dracula.txt`

cut

The cut command is used to extract a specific section of each line of a file and display it to the screen.

- Usage:
 - `cut + option + file(s)`
- Examples:
 - Display a list of all the users in your system.
 - `cut -d ":" -f1 /etc/passwd`
 - Display a list of all the users in your system with their login shell.
 - `cut -d ":" -f1,7 /etc/passwd`

sort

The sort command is used for sorting files(alphabetically, reverse, number, and by month).

- Usage:
 - `sort + option + file`
- Examples:
 - sort a file.
 - `sort users.lst`
 - sorts a file in reverse order.
 - `sort -r users.txt`

wc

The wc command is used for printing the number of lines, characters and bytes in a file.

- Usage:
 - `wc + option + file(s)`
- Examples:
 - Displays number of characters in a file.
 - `wc -m users.txt`
 - Displays the number of lines in a file.
 - `wc -l users.txt`

diff

The diff command compares files and displays the differences between them.

- Usage:
 - `diff + option + file1 + file2`
- Examples:
 - Displays the diff between 2 files.
 - `diff cars.csv cars-backup.csv`
 - Displays the diff between 2 files in a column format.

- `diff -y cars.csv cars-backup.csv`

grep

Grep is used to search text in given file(Matches search criteria in a line by line basis).

- Usage:
 - `grep + option + search criteria + file(s)`
- Examples:
 - Searches for the word 'dracula' in given file.
 - `grep 'dracula' ~/Documents/dracula.txt`
 - Searches for the word war in all lines of given file.
 - `grep -v 'war' ~/Documents/dracula.txt`