**Paste Command**

Paste command is one of the useful commands in unix or linux operating system. The paste command merges the lines from multiple files. The paste command sequentially writes the corresponding lines from each file separated by a TAB delimiter on the unix terminal.   
  
The syntax of the paste command is

paste [options] files-list

The options of paste command are:

-d : Specify of a list of delimiters.

-s : Paste one file at a time instead of in parallel.

--version : version information

--help : Help about the paste command.

**Paste Command Examples**:  
  
Create the following three files in your unix or linux servers to practice to practice the examples:

> cat file1

Unix

Linux

Windows

> cat file2

Dedicated server

Virtual server

> cat file3

Hosting

Machine

Operating system

1. Merging files in parallel  
  
By default, the paste command merges the files in parallel. The paste command writes corresponding lines from the files as a tab delimited on the terminal.

> paste file1 file2

Unix Dedicated server

Linux Virtual server

Windows

> paste file2 file1

Dedicated server Unix

Virtual server Linux

Windows

2. Specifying the delimiter  
  
Paste command uses the tab delimiter by default for merging the files. You can change the delimiter to any other character by using the -d option.

> paste -d"|" file1 file2

Unix|Dedicated server

Linux|Virtual server

Windows|

In the above example, pipe delimiter is specified  
  
3. Merging files in sequentially.  
  
You can merge the files in sequentially using the -s option. The paste command reads each file in sequentially. It reads all the lines from a single file and merges all these lines into a single line.

> paste -s file1 file2

Unix Linux Windows

Dedicated server Virtual server

The following example shows how to specify a delimiter for sequential merging of files:

> paste -s -d"," file1 file2

Unix,Linux,Windows

Dedicated server,Virtual server

4. Specifying multiple delimiters.  
  
Multiple delimiters come in handy when you want to merge more than two files with different delimiters. For example I want to merge file1, file2 with pipe delimiter and file2, file3 with comma delimiter. In this case multiple delimiters will be helpful.

> paste -d"|," file1 file2 file3

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Linux|Virtual server,Machine

Windows|,Operating system