**Cut Command in Unix ( Linux) Examples**

Cut command in unix (or linux) is used to select sections of text from each line of files. You can use the cut command to select fields or columns from a line by specifying a delimiter or you can select a portion of text by specifying the range or characters. Basically the cut command slices a line and extracts the text.  
  
**Unix Cut Command Example**  
  
We will see the usage of cut command by considering the below text file as an example

> cat file.txt

unix or linux os

is unix good os

is linux good os

**1.** Write a unix/linux cut command to print characters by position?  
  
The cut command can be used to print characters in a line by specifying the position of the characters. To print the characters in a line, use the -c option in cut command

cut -c4 file.txt

x

u

l

The above cut command prints the fourth character in each line of the file. You can print more than one character at a time by specifying the character positions in a comma separated list as shown in the below example

cut -c4,6 file.txt

xo

ui

ln

This command prints the fourth and sixth character in each line.  
  
**2.**Write a unix/linux cut command to print characters by range?  
  
You can print a range of characters in a line by specifying the start and end position of the characters.

cut -c4-7 file.txt

x or

unix

linu

The above cut command prints the characters from fourth position to the seventh position in each line. To print the first six characters in a line, omit the start position and specify only the end position.

cut -c-6 file.txt

unix o

is uni

is lin

To print the characters from tenth position to the end, specify only the start position and omit the end position.

cut -c10- file.txt

inux os

ood os

good os

If you omit the start and end positions, then the cut command prints the entire line.

cut -c- file.txt

**3.**Write a unix/linux cut command to print the fields using the delimiter?  
  
You can use the cut command just as awk command to extract the fields in a file using a delimiter. The -d option in cut command can be used to specify the delimiter and -f option is used to specify the field position.

cut -d' ' -f2 file.txt

or

unix

linux

This command prints the second field in each line by treating the space as delimiter. You can print more than one field by specifying the position of the fields in a comma delimited list.

cut -d' ' -f2,3 file.txt

or linux

unix good

linux good

The above command prints the second and third field in each line.  
  
**Note:** If the delimiter you specified is not exists in the line, then the cut command prints the entire line. To suppress these lines use the -s option in cut command.  
  
**4.** Write a unix/linux cut command to display range of fields?  
  
You can print a range of fields by specifying the start and end position.

cut -d' ' -f1-3 file.txt

The above command prints the first, second and third fields. To print the first three fields, you can ignore the start position and specify only the end position.

cut -d' ' -f-3 file.txt

To print the fields from second fields to last field, you can omit the last field position.

cut -d' ' -f2- file.txt

**5.** Write a unix/linux cut command to display the first field from /etc/passwd file?  
  
The /etc/passwd is a delimited file and the delimiter is a colon (:). The cut command to display the first field in /etc/passwd file is

cut -d':' -f1 /etc/passwd

**6.** The input file contains the below text

> cat filenames.txt

logfile.dat

sum.pl

add\_int.sh

Using the cut command extract the portion after the dot.  
  
First reverse the text in each line and then apply the command on it.

rev filenames.txt | cut -d'.' -f1