

Notes 6: Handling Text Files

Each of the commands used for handling text files

awk

Definition

Used for processing and displaying text

Usage

```
awk+options+{awk command}+file+file to save
```

Examples

- Print first column of every line of a file
 - `awk '{print $1}' ~/Documents/Csv/cars.csv`
- Print first field of /etc/passwd file
 - `awk -F: '{print $1}' /etc/passwd`

sed

Definition

Performs operations on files and standard output

Usage

```
sed options+sed script+file
```

Examples

- Replacing a string in a given file
 - `sed 's/pizza/rice/' shopping-list.lst`
- Replacing the number of occurrences of a pattern in a file
 - `sed 's/pizza/rice/4' shopping-list.lst`

less

Definition

Used for reading files 1 page at a time

Usage

```
pager program+file to read
```

Example

- `less ~/Documents/Books/dracula.txt`

alias

Definition

A shorthand for a more complicated command

Usage

```
alias name_of_alias="command here"
```

Examples

- An alias to upgrade a linux
 - `alias update="sudo apt update; sudo apt upgrade -y; sudo apt full-upgrade -y"`
- An alias to clean your system from unneeded packages
 - `alias clean="sudo apt autoremove -y; sudo apt autoclean; sudo apt purge`

>

Examples

- Save the output of a command to a file
 - `ls -lA ~ > all-files-in-home.txt`
- Save the error generated by a command to a file
 - `ls -lA downloads/ Pictures > success.txt 2> error.txt`

>>

Examples

- `ls -la >> allmyfiles.lst`

|

Examples

- Use grep to look for a string in a particular man page
 - `man ls | grep "human-readable"`
- Display only the options of any command from its man page
 - `man ls | grep "^[[:space:]]*[[[:punct:]]`