Note 4: Wildcards

Explain how to use each of the wildcards(*,?,[])

* wildcard

The * wildcard matches 0 to any number of characters.

Examples:

- List all the text files in a directory
    - `ls *.txt`
- List all the files that start with the word file
    - `ls file*`
- Copy all the mp4 files
- `cp Downloads/*.mp4 ~/Videos/Movies/`

? wildcard

The ? wildcard matches a single character.

Examples:

- List all the hidden files
    - `ls .??*`

[] wildcard

The [] wildcard matches a single character in a range.

Examples:

- Match all files with a vowel after f
    - `ls f[aeiou]*`
- Match all files whose name has 1 number
    - `ls *[0-9]*`

Brace Expansion

The brace expansion is not a wildcard but is a feature of bash that allows you to generate arbitrary strings to use with commands.

Examples

- To create a whole directory structure
    - `mkdir -p music/{jazz,rock}/{mp3files,videos,oggfiles}/new{1..3}`
- Remove multiple files in a single directory
    - `rm -r {dir1,dir2,dir3,file.txt,file.py}`