Session 2

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1 Wild cards

Sometimes you will need to execute a command on a group of files instead of a single one

EXAMPLES :

- You want to delete all log files

- You want to list all images files

- You want to copy old files (ending with .old) to a different place

WILD CARDS are patterns that work as placeholders in filenames/directories that are used to apply the command on a group of files/dirs that share something in their names

for normal text another patterns are used Regular Expressions. which we will cover later inshaAllah.

- The "*" can replace any set of characters (including none) in the file/dir name

```
1 $ rm *.php
2 $ rm p*
3 $ rm *.*htm*
```

- The "?" wlidcard stands for any single character

```
1 $ rm ?.java
2 $ rm ?a?.txt
```

- [$\langle chars \rangle$] and [!$\langle chars \rangle$]
  we can have more restriction than the use of "?" by specifying a limited set of options for the character

```
1  [ars] : stands for a single character from the list a , r,
       c
2  [!ars] : stands for a single character except for a , r, c
3  [2-5] : any character from the range 2 to 5
4  [a-l] : any character from the range a to l
5  [!a-l] : any single character except for a to l
6  [1-37-9] : 1,2,3,7,8,9
7  [a-ch-k] : a,b,c,h,k
```

```
1  $ rm -r ab[c-fhj]
2  $ ls results-[0-9][0-9].log
```

[[:$class names$:]]
Stands for a single character belonging to the specified class

[[:alphanum:]] Alpha numeric characters (a-z,A-Z,0-9)
[[:alpha:]] Alpha characters (a-z,A-Z)
[[:digit:]] Digits
[[:lower:]] lower Alpha characters (a-z)
[[:alpha:]] upper Alpha characters (A-Z)

```
Example :
```

```
1  $ cp results-[[:digit:]]-[[:digit:]]-[[:alpha:]]-log ~/log
2  results-35-b.log
```

Escape sequence :

Some special letters has a meaning ("space","*","[ ]",...)

```
1  $ rm my results.txt
2  $ rm my\ results.txt
```

How to deal with these files ?

```
1  my?file.log
2  my*file.log
3  abc[!2]
```