



UNIX for Programmers and Users

“UNIX for Programmers and Users”
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Displaying a File: cat

- `cat` with the name of the file that you wanted to display:

`$ cat heart` --> list the contents
of the “heart” file.

I hear her breathing.

I’m surrounded by the sound.

Floating in this secret place,

I never shall be found.

`$ _`

- `cat` is good for listing the contents of small files, but it `doesn’t pause` between full screens of output.

Displaying a File: more

more -f +lineNumber fileName

- The more utility allows you to scroll a list of files, one page at a time.
- By default, each file is displayed starting at line 1, although the +option may be used to specify the starting line number.
- The -f option tells more not to fold (or wrap) long lines.
- After each page is displayed, more displays the message “--more--” to indicate that it’s waiting for a command.
- To list the next page, press the space bar.
- To list the next line, press the Enter key.
- To quit from more, press the “q” key.
- ^B will display the previous page
- H will display help page
- Try:

```
$ ls -la /usr/bin > myLongFile
```

```
$ more myLongFile
```

Displaying a File: head and tail

head -n fileName

- The head utility displays the first n lines of a file. If n is not specified, it defaults to 10. If more than one file is specified, a small header identifying each file is displayed before its contents.

tail -n fileName

- The tail utility displays the last n lines of a file. If n is not specified, it defaults to 10. If more than one file is specified, a small header identifying each file is displayed before its contents.
- The first two lines and last two lines of my “heart” file.

\$ head -2 heart

--> list the first two lines.

I hear her breathing,
I'm surrounded by the sound.

\$ tail -2 heart

--> list the last two lines.

Floating in this secret place,
I never shall be found.

\$ head -15 myLongFile

--> see what happens

Renaming/Moving a File: mv

mv -i oldFileName newFileName

mv -i fileName directoryName

mv -i oldDirectoryName newDirectoryName

- The first form of mv **renames oldFileName as newFileName**.
- The second form allows you **to move a collection of files to a directory**.
- The third form allows you **to move an entire directory**.
- **The -i option** prompts you **for confirmation** if newFileName already exists so that you **do not accidentally replace its contents**. You should learn to use this option (or set a convenient shell alias that replaces “mv” with “mv -i”; we will come back to this later).

Renaming/Moving Files: mv

- Here's how to **rename the file** using the first form of the mv utility:

```
$ mv heart heart.ver1
```

--> rename to "heart.ver1".

```
$ ls
```

```
heart.ver1
```

```
$ _
```

Making Directory: mkdir

`mkdir -p newDirectoryName`

- The mkdir utility creates a directory. The -p option creates any parent directories in the newDirectoryName pathname that do not already exist.
- If newDirectoryName already exists, an error message is displayed and the existing file is not altered in any way.

\$ `mkdir lyrics` --> creates a directory called "lyrics".

\$ `ls -lF` --> check the directory listing in order
--> to confirm the existence of the
--> new directory.

```
-rw-r--r--    1  glass   106   Jan 30 23:28  heart.ver1
drwxr-xr-x    2  glass   512   Jan 30 19:49  lyrics/
$ _
```

Moving Files

- Once the “lyrics” directory is created, we can move the “heart.ver1” file into its new location. To do so, used `mv` and confirm the operation using `ls`:

`$ mv heart.ver1 lyrics` --> move into “lyrics”.

`$ ls` --> list the current directory.

`lyrics/` --> “heart.ver1” has gone.

`$ ls lyrics` --> list the “lyrics” directory.

`heart.ver1` --> “heart.ver1” has moved.

`$ _`

Changing Directories: cd

- **cd** **directoryName**

- The following might be inconvenient; especially if we deal with large hierarchy:

```
$ cat lyrics/heart.ver1 --> display
```

- Instead, change directory:

```
$ cd lyrics --> change directory  
$ cat heart.ver1 --> display
```

- The **cd shell command** changes a shell's **current working directory** to be **directoryName**.
- If the **directoryName** argument is omitted, the shell is moved to its **owner's home directory**.

Reorganizing Directories

```
$ pwd
```

--> display where I am

```
/home/glass
```

```
$ cd lyrics
```

--> move into the “lyrics” directory

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/glass/lyrics
```

```
$ cd ..
```

--> move up one level

```
$ pwd
```

--> display new position

```
/home/glass
```

```
$ cd lyrics
```

--> move into the “lyrics” directory

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/glass/lyrics
```

```
$ ls ~/
```

--> “~/” refers to home directory

```
/home/glass
```

```
$ _
```

Copying Files: cp

- To copy the file, I used [the cp utility](#), which works as follows:

cp -i oldFileName newFileName

cp -ir fileName directoryName

- The first form of cp [copies the contents of oldFileName](#) to newFileName.
- If the label newFileName [already exists](#), its contents are [replaced by](#) the contents of oldFileName.
- [The -i option](#) prompts you [for confirmation](#) if newFileName already exists so that you do not accidentally overwrite its contents. Like with [mv](#), it is a good idea to use this option or create an alias.

Copying Files: cp

- The `-r` option causes any source files that are directories to be recursively copied, thus copying the entire directory structure.
- `cp` actually does two things
 - It makes a physical copy of the original file's contents.
 - It creates a new label in the directory hierarchy that points to the copied file.

```
$ cp heart.ver1 heart.ver2          --> copy to "heart.ver2".
$ ls -l heart.ver1 heart.ver2       --> confirm the existence of both files.
-rw-r--r--  1  glass  106  Jan 30 23:28  heart.ver1
-rw-r--r--  1  glass  106  Jan 31 00:12  heart.ver2
$ cp -i heart.ver1 heart.ver2       --> what happens?
```

Deleting a Directory: rmdir

rmdir directoryName

- The rmdir utility removes all of the directories in the list of directory names provided in the command. A directory must be empty before it can be removed.
- To recursively remove a directory and all of its contents, use the rm utility with the -r option.
- Here, we try to remove the “lyrics.draft” directory while it still contains the draft versions, so we receive the following error message:

```
$ rmdir lyrics.draft
rmdir : lyrics.draft : Directory not empty.
$ _
```

Deleting Directories: `rm -r`

- The `rm` utility allows you to remove a file's label from the hierarchy.
- Here's a description of `rm`:

`rm -fir fileName`

- The `rm` utility removes a file's label from the directory hierarchy.
- If the filename doesn't exist, an error message is displayed.
- The `-i` option prompts the user for confirmation before deleting a filename. It is a very good idea to use this option or create a shell alias that translates from "`rm`" to "`rm -i`". If you don't, you will lose some files one day – you have been warned!
- If `fileName` is a directory, the `-r` option causes all of its contents, including subdirectories, to be recursively deleted.
- The `-f` option inhibits all error messages and prompts. It overrides the `-i` option (also one coming from an alias). **This is dangerous!**

Removing Directories with Files

- The `-r` option of `rm` can be used to delete the “lyrics.draft” directory and all of its contents with just one command:

\$ `cd` --> move to my home directory.

\$ `rm -r lyrics.draft` --> recursively delete directory.

\$ `_`

Counting Lines, Words and Characters in Files: wc

wc -lwc fileName

- The wc utility counts the number of lines, words, and/or characters in a list of files.
- If no files are specified, standard input is used instead.
- The -l option requests a line count,
- the -w option requests a word count,
- and the -c option requests a character count.
- If no options are specified, then all three counts are displayed.
-
- A word is defined by a sequence of characters surrounded by tabs, spaces, or new lines.

Counting Lines, Words and Characters in Files: wc

- **For example, to count lines, words and characters in the “heart.final” file, we used:**

```
$ cd ~/lyrics.final
```

```
$ wc heart.final      --> obtain a count of the number of lines,  
                      --> words, and characters.
```

```
9    43    213 heart.final
```

```
$ _
```

Determining Type of a File: file

file fileName

- The file utility attempts to describe the contents of the fileName argument(s), including the language in which any of the text is written.
- file is not reliable; it may get confused.
- When file is used on a symbolic-link file, file reports on the file that the link is pointing to, rather than on, the link itself.
- For example,

```
$ file heart.final
```

```
heart.final: ascii text
```

```
$ _
```

--> determine the file type.

File Permissions (Security)

- File permissions are the basis for file security. They are given in three clusters. In the example, the permission settings are “rw-r--r--”:

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 glass cs 213 Jan 31 00:12 heart.final
```

User (owner)	Group	Others
rw-	r--	r--

← clusters

Each cluster of three letters has the same format:

Read permission	Write permission	Execute permission
r	w	x

File Permission

The meaning of the read, write, and execute permissions depends on the type of file:

	Regular file	Directory file
Read	read the contents	read the directory (list the names of files that it contains)
Write	change the contents	Add files to the directory
Execute	execute the file if the file is a program	access files in the directory