Handling Ordinary files

cat: Displaying and creating Files

- It is mainly used to display the contents of a small file on the terminal
- Differentiate between $ cat   //Output ?

  and

  $ cat file.txt   //Output ?
- $ cat file1 file2   //concatenates two files

cat Options(-v and -n)

- Displaying Nonprinting Characters(-v)

  :If you have non ascii characters in your input,you can use cat with the -v option to display these characters

- Numbering Lines (-n) or pr command

  -n option numbers lines

Extra Information

- tac command (View the Contents in Reverse Order)

  ```
  $tac file1
  ```

- Show the tab space in the file as ‘^I’ using -T option

  ```
  $cat -T file2
  ```

cp:Copying a File

- cp(copy) command copies a file or group of files
- It creates an exact image of the file on disk with a different name
- Syntax requires at least two filenames to be specified in the command line
- When both are ordinary files, the first is copied to the second

$cp chap chap1 //where destination file is chap1

- $cp chap01 progs/unit1 //chap01 copied to unit1 under progs
- $cp chap01 progs //chap01 retains its name under progs
- $cp /home/lenovo/.profile .profile
- $cp /home/lenovo/.profile .
- $cp chap01 chap02 chap03 progs

cp options

- Interactive Copying (-i):

  warns the user before overwriting the destination file

  ```
  => $cp -i chap01 unit1
  cp:overwrite 'unit1'?
  ```

- Copying Directory Structures(-R):

  ```
  $cp -R /home/lenovo/Desktop/videos Documents/
  ```

  output:videos directory copied to Documents directory

-
  ```
  $cp -R /home/lenovo/Desktop/videos Department
  ```

  Output:?

  //where Department is a directory doesnot exist

- cp Command Syntax

  The syntax is as follows to copy files and directories using the cp command:

- cp SOURCE DEST
- cp SOURCE DIRECTORY
- cp SOURCE1 SOURCE2 SOURCE3 SOURCEn DIRECTORY
- cp [OPTION] SOURCE DEST
- cp [OPTION] SOURCE DIRECTORY

rm:Deleting Files

- rm command delete one or more files

```
$rm chap01 chap02 chap03
```

- A file once deleted can't be recovered

```
$rm progs/chap01 progs/chap02
```

or

```
$rm progs/chap0[12]
```

rm Options

- Interactive deletion(-i): option makes the command ask the user for confirmation before removing each file

  ```
  $rm -i chap01 chap02 chap03
  rm: remove 'chap01'?
  rm: remove 'chap02'?
  rm: remove 'chap03'?
  ```

- Recursive Deletion(-r or -R):

  rm won't normally remove directories, but when used with this option, it will

  ```
  rm -r * //behaves partially like rmdir
  ```

- Forcing removal (-f)

  ```
  rm -rf *  //deletes everything in the current directory and below
  ```

more:Paging Output

- More command is a command for displaying a long text file per page at a time. More command is a built-in command in Linux.

  $more /var/log/syslog

  more use spacebar to scroll forward a page at a time

  f or spacebar

  and to move back one page

  b

cmp: Comparing two files

- It needs two filenames as arguments
- $cmp chap chap1 //chap=chap1 or chap!=chap1

  output:?
- $cmp -l chap chap2   //where l is list option

  Output:?

od:Displaying data in octal

- Many files contain non printing characters and most Unix commands don't display them properly
- File (i.e odfile) contains some of non printing characters
- $more odfile

  white space includes a The ^G

  character rings a bell

- The od command make these characters visible by displaying ASCII octal value of its input

-b-> displays this value for each character separately

```
$od -b odfile
```

Each line displays 16 bytes of data in octal, preceded by the offset(position) in the file of the

first byte in the line

```
$od -bc odfile
```

Charcter	Non printing Character	ASCII OCTAL VALUE
Tab Character	[Ctrl-i] or \t	011
Bell Character	[Ctrl-g] or \a	007
Formfeed Character	[Ctrl-l] or \f	014
Linefeed or newline character	[Ctrl-j] or \n	012