

# Finding the most popular entry (Bash function)

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Let's now make a function called `fbfind()` which can just take a file as an argument and spell out the most popular message for us! Let's watch the following video lecture first:



Finding the most popular status entry using Bash function

```
function fbfind() { cat $1 | \
csvcut -c 2,8-15 | \
awk -F "," '{ total = total + $2 + $3 + $4 + $5 + $6 + $7 + $8 + $9; print $1,"total; total=0 }'
sort -n -r -t"," -k 2 |
head -n 1; }
```

Like all other “real” programming languages Bash has functions, but unfortunately in a somewhat limited implementation. The input argument is stored in the built-in variable `$1`, which does not get mixed with the built-in column variables in `awk` e.g., `$1-$15` our case (15 columns)!

A terminal window titled 'facebookdata: bash' showing the definition of a Bash function 'fbfind' and its execution. The function definition is: 

```
function fbfind() { cat $1 | \
csvcut -c 2,8-15 | \
awk -F "," '{ total = total + $2 + $3 + $4 + $5 + $6 + $7 + $8 + $9; print $1,"total; total=0 }' | \
sort -n -r -t"," -k 2 | \
head -n 1 ; }
```

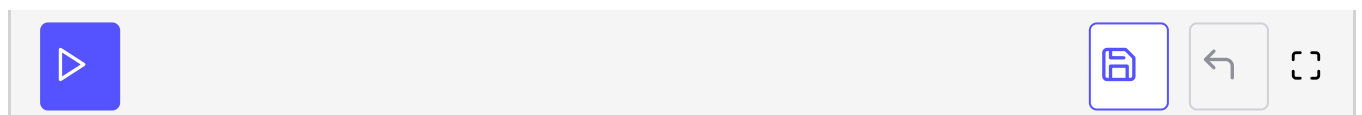
 The execution command is `fbfind facebookdata.csv`. The output is: `LeBron and the Cavs are tired of being bullied,668121`.

fbfind() function output

We will be able to run our Bash function as follows, instantly get the output:

```
function fbfind() { cat $1 | \
csvcut -c 2,8-15 | \
awk -F "," '{ total = total + $2 + $3 + $4 + $5 + $6 + $7 + $8 + $9; print $1,"total; total=0 }' | \
sort -n -r -t"," -k 2 | \
head -n 1 ; }

fbfind facebookdata.csv
```



As you can see, one custom function written in just one line, found our desired out, the most popular message in our dataset ( `LeBron and the Cavs are tired of being bullied` ) which had a total of ( `668121` ) reactions!

Do you want to know more? #



'bash functions' man page

