

Module 3

Command	Sample Usage	Description
Reading Files		
cat	cat foo.txt	display the contents of foo.txt returning you to the prompt. This is great for short files
less	less myfile.txt cat myfile.txt less	display the contents of a file with the ability to navigate up and down same as above but using piping
head	head myfile.txt head -20 myfile.txt cat myfile.txt head -20	display the first 10 lines of a file starting at the top display the specified number of lines of a file starting at the top same as above but using piping
tail	tail myfile.txt tail -20 myfile.txt cat myfile.txt tail -20	display the last 10 lines of a file starting at the bottom display the specified number of lines of a file starting at the bottom same as above but using piping
Commands for manipulating data		
sort	sort myfile.txt cat myfile.txt sort	sort the output into alpha-numeric order based on the first word of the line
uniq	sort myfile.txt uniq	remove duplicate lines that are adjacent to each other. best when used with the sort command
wc	wc myfile.txt wc -l myfile.txt ls wc -l	display the line count, word count and byte count information of a file display the line count of a file display the line count of the output of the ls command using piping
grep	grep word myfile.txt grep -r word mydirectory/ ls grep myfile	search within a file for the pattern 'word' search recursively within a directory for 'word' search within a command output for a search term
Archiving and Compressing		
tar	tar -cvf foo.tar mydirectory tar -cvf foo.tar file1.txt file2.txt tar -xvf foo.tar tar -czvf foo.tgz mydirectory tar -xzvf foo.tgz tar -tf foo.tar	create a tarball of a directory create a tarball of a list of files extract a tarball create a tarball and gzip it at the same time extract a tarball and gunzip it at the same time list the contents of a tarball
zip	zip foo.zip mydirectory unzip foo.zip	create a zip file - this directory will be both compressed and zipped extract a zip file - this file will be both uncompressed and unzipped
Compression Only		
bzip2	bzip2 foo.txt bunzip2 foo.txt.bz2	create a bzip2 file - this will replace foo.txt with a new file extension bz2 extract a bzip2 file - this will replace foo.txt.bz2 with foo.txt
gzip	gzip foo.txt gunzip foo.txt.gz	create a gzip file - this will replace foo.txt with a new file extension gz extract a gzip file - this will replace foo.txt.gz with foo.txt
Redirection (data flows into a file)		
> and >>	ls -l /usr/bin > ls-output.txt ls -l /usr/bin >> ls-output.txt	redirect standard output to a new file redirect standard output and append to the end of a file
2> and 2>>	ls -l /bin/usr 2> /dev/null ls -l /bin/usr 2>> ls-error.txt	redirect standard error to /dev/null – it redirect standard error to a file
&> and &>>	ls -l /bin/usr &> ls-output.txt	redirect standard output and standard error to the same file
Piping (command output flows into another command as input)		
(pipe)	cat /etc/passwd sort less	redirect the standard output of one command to another command
Finding files or directories		
find	find / -name "findme" find ~ -type f find . -type f -name "somethingElse"	Searches entire machine for file or directory named "findme" Searches home directory and everything underneath for all files Searches current working directory and beneath for file named "somethingElse"
locate	locate passwd locate /etc/passwd	finds all files or directories that have 'passwd' anywhere in the name or path. finds all files or dir's that have '/etc/passwd' anywhere in the name or path.
updatedb	updatedb	update the locate database so it can find recently created files.