Getting Comfortable With the command-line

Daniel Freedman

Outline

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- At this time, go ahead and download the bundle to follow along: `http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/~dfreedm2/cmdline.tar.gz`

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- Terminals created by Gnome, KDE, XFCE, etc. usually wrap xterm to provide support for tabs and copy/paste with keyboard combos.

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- It is very fast, but only supports 8 colors unlike xterm's 256 (useful for syntax highlighting).
- Macs can also use xterm by installing X11 and using the provided X11 xterm.

Cygwin

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- Cygwin requires tools and applications be compiled inside cygwin for compatibility.

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- SUA is provided by Microsoft as a pure UNIX application layer for Windows, without any compatibility for filepaths or syntax

Outline

The Easy And Common Tools I

- echo: Repeats what was typed back out

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ echo "Hello World"
Hello World
```

- mv: Moves files from arguments 0 through N-1 to argument N, also used for renaming files

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ mv samples/file1 hi.txt
```

- cp: Copies a file from argument 1 to argument 2

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ cp hi.txt hello.txt
```

- rm: Removes files specified

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ rm hello.txt
```

The Easy And Common Tools II

- mkdir: Makes a new directory

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ mkdir newdir
```

- ls: Lists files in the current directory

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ ls
hi.txt
newdir
samples
```

- cat: Prints out the contents of a file

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ cat hi.txt
Hello There
```

- grep: Lists the lines in the specified files that match the given expression

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ grep "Hello" hi.txt
Hello There
```

The Easy And Common Tools III

- ssh: Remotely log into another machine

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ ssh dfreedm2@yt.acm.uiuc.edu
dfreedm2@yt /home/dfreedm2 $
```

- less: Saves output from a command into a scrollable window

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ less samples/bigfile
This is pdfTeX, Version 3.1415926-1.40.10 (TeX Live
2009/Debian) (format=pdflatex 2010.8.27) 11 SEP 2010
17:49
samples/bigfile lines 1-3/1162 0%
```

- ln: With the '-s' flag, ln can make "symlinks" that provide a pointer to the real location of a file.

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ ln -s hi.txt pointer
```

The Easy And Common Tools IV

- sudo: Run a command as the 'root', the super user.

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ whoami
sls
```

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ sudo whoami
root
```

- dmesg: Print the system log

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ dmesg
[71012.760576] Initializing CPU#1
[71012.760576] CPU: L1 I cache:  32K, L1 D cache:  32K
[71012.760576] CPU: L2 cache:  3072K
[71012.760576] CPU 1/0x1 -> Node 0
```

The Easy And Common Tools V

- head: Read only the first N lines from a file. Default $N = 20$. Adjustable with the `-n` flag.

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ head -n 1
This is pdfTeX, Version 3.1415926-1.40.10 (TeX Live
2009/Debian) (format=pdflatex 2010.8.27) 11 SEP 2010
17:53
```

- tail: Read only the last N lines from a file. Default $N = 20$. Adjustable with the `-n` flag.

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ tail -n 1
161 words of extra memory for PDF output out of 10000
(max.  10000000)
```

Output Redirection

- Output Redirection is the ability to move text between applications, directly into files, or directly from files.
- |: Pipe moves text from the application on the left to the application on the right.

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ dmesg | grep -i usb | less
```

- >: Redirect output from a program into a file.

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ dmesg > log
```

- <: Read a file directly into the input of a program.

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ tr a-zA-Z < log
```

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- Creating a tar archive can be done with "tar czvf", which invokes gzip as the compression program

```
sls@2405 cmdline $ tar czvf tarball.tar.gz hi.txt
hi.txt
```

- Extracting an archive can be done with "tar xvf", which automatically picks
the compression program to use for decompression *on most machines*.

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hi.txt
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- Other uses exist, but read the man page.

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- `brew install $(brew outdated)` upgrades outdated packages.

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- `make install` will then install the code into the right spot.

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- SourceMage has a rather useful guide to beginning, intermediate, and advanced `git` useage.

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- Man pages exist for everything from trivial programs to language functions and libraries.

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- `man sh` should give you all the syntax.
- Commands wrapped with `$(COMMAND)` return the output of that command.
- How would you get the total size of a directory? **du -b gives size in bytes.**

Example Program

```
1  #!/bin/sh
2  set -e
3  TOTAL=0
4  for i in $(find .)
5  do
6   if [ ! -d $i ]
7   then
8    SIZE=$(du -b $i | awk '{print $1}')
9    TOTAL=$(echo $TOTAL + $SIZE | bc)
10  fi
11 done
12 echo "$TOTAL bytes"
```

This is also known as `du -s`.

Outline

Tips and Tricks

- xclip can put text into and out of the copy/paste buffer.
- Ctrl-a goes to front of line, Ctrl-e goes to end of line.
- Ctrl-u clears a whole line, Ctrl-k clears a line from the cursor onwards.
- Ctrl-w removes a word from the line.
- Invoking a command with a & afterwards will run it in the background.
- Ctrl-z pauses a program, `fg` puts it back in the foreground, `bg` runs it in the background.
- `alias` allows you to set up macros in the terminal.

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QA time

Questions Anyone?