

Do more and type less on the command line

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February 2018

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We are not here
because we like typing

Rather we use the
command line for its
flexibility and power

We are not here because
I want to teach you about
the shell

(although, that will happen too)

Rather because I want to
inspire you to customize
and improve your tools

New stuff first!

Ask questions about anything!

Shout if you have a better way!

3 different ways to extend your command toolbox

sam (alias/function)
newest (function)
tab (script)

A new, perhaps better, way to do all this stuff

How to always invoke
ls with -l argument?

alias ll='ls -l'

```
alias ll='ls -l -color=auto'
```


How to randomly sample lines from a file?

Usage: `cat file | sam`



create alias for this part

There is a better way to do this,
we'll do that next

sam — outline

- 1.
2. Randomize the lines in the file
3. Select the top 10 lines
- 4.
- 5.

sam — outline

1. Number the lines in the file
2. Randomize them
3. Select the top 10 lines
4. Sort them back into their original order
5. Remove the line numbers

How to number the
lines in a file?

nl

```
(helen@helens-mbp[ttys000])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
```

```
(0)-(o)% head -5 chemicals
```

```
CID100000085      carnitine
CID100000119      gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA
CID100000137      5-aminolevulinic acid
CID100000143      leucovorin
CID100000158      prostaglandin E2
```

```
(helen@helens-mbp[ttys000])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
```

```
(0)-(o)% head -5 chemicals | nl
```

```
1  CID100000085      carnitine
2  CID100000119      gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA
3  CID100000137      5-aminolevulinic acid
4  CID100000143      leucovorin
5  CID100000158      prostaglandin E2
```


How to randomize the
lines in a file?

shuf

```
(helen@helens-mbp[ttys000])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
(0)-(o)% head -n 5 chemicals|shuf
CID1000000158      prostaglandin E2
CID1000000137      5-aminolevulinic acid
CID1000000143      leucovorin
CID1000000085      carnitine
CID1000000119      gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA
```


How to get the first N
lines in a file?

head

```
(helen@helens-mbp[ttys000])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
(0)-(o)% cat chemicals|nl|shuf|head -5
    49  CID100000853      thyroxine
  1065  CID100119830      tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
    782  CID100006058      cysteamine
    173  CID100002554      carbamazepine
   1125  CID100159247      sevelamer hydrochloride
```


How to sort the lines in
a file?

sort

```
(helen@helens-mbp[ttys000])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
(0)-(o)% cat chemicals|nl|shuf|head -5|sort -n
    19  CID100000297      methane
    94  CID100002099      alose tron
   211  CID100002733      stealth
   408  CID100003706      indinavir
  1194  CID103081276      fluticasone/salmeterol
```


How to remove
columns from a file?

cut (or awk)

```
(helen@helens-mbp[ttys000])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
(0)-(o)% cat chemicals|nl|shuf|head -5|sort -n|cut -f2-
CID100000923      sodium
CID100001134      thymidine
CID100002250      atorvastatin
CID100002487      butorphanol
CID100004163      methysergide
```


sam — outline

1. (nl) Number the lines in the file
2. (shuf) Randomize them
3. (head) Select the top 10 lines
4. (sort) Sort them back into their original order
5. (cut) Remove the line numbers


```
alias sam='nl | shuf | head | sort -n | cut -f2-'
```


As an alias, we can't do
sam file

How to define a
function?

```
sam () {
```

```
}
```


How to get the
arguments to a function?

First argument is in \$1
Second is in \$2
etc...

How to test if a file
exists?

[-f \$file]

[-f \$file]

spaces!!



The diagram illustrates the importance of spaces in a shell command. It shows the command '[-f \$file]' in a large font. Below it, the text 'spaces!!' is written. Two arrows originate from 'spaces!!': one points to the space between the opening bracket '[' and the hyphen '-', and the other points to the space between the '\$file' and the closing bracket ']'.

What is the syntax for
if?

```
sam () {
```

```
    if [      ]; then
```

```
    else
```

```
    fi
```

```
}
```

```
sam () {  
    if [[ -f "$1" ]]; then  
  
    else  
  
    fi  
  
}
```

```
sam () {  
    if [[ -f "$1" ]]; then  
        input="$1"  
    else  
  
    fi  
  
}
```


How do you read from
STDIN?

cat -


```
sam () {  
    if [[ -f "$1" ]]; then  
        input="$1"  
    else  
        input="-"  
    fi  
  
}
```

```
sam () {  
    if [[ -f "$1" ]]; then  
        input="$1"  
    else  
        input="-"  
    fi  
    cat $input | nl | shuf | head | sort -n | cut -f2-  
}
```

```
sam () {  
    if [[ -f "$1" ]]; then  
        input="$1"  
    else  
        input="-"  
    fi  
    cat $input | nl | shuf | head | sort -n | cut -f2-  
}
```



```
(helen@sund29736[ttys009])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
```

```
(0)-(o)% sam chemicals
```

CID100001546	cladribine
CID100002162	amlodipine
CID100002914	cyproterone acetate
CID100003100	diphenhydramine
CID100003292	ethotoin
CID100003462	gemeprost
CID100003763	isoflurane
CID100003958	lorazepam
CID106918430	ceftobiprole
CID124812758	canagliflozin

```
(helen@sund29736[ttys009])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
```

```
(0)-(o)% cat chemicals|sam
```

CID100003063	dihydrocodeine
CID100003372	fluphenazine
CID100003696	imipramine
CID100004499	nisoldipine
CID100004536	Milli
CID100083606	strontium
CID100092725	pyocin S3
CID100114709	eslicarbazepine
CID116132438	Humalog
CID118609542	Cephalosporins

For fun: adapt sam so it will
work with very large files

For fun: adapt sam so it will
work with very large files

Hint: seek

How to list the N newest
files in a directory tree?

Usage: newest N

newest — outline

1. Find all the files in the directory tree
2. For each file ...
 3. Get the last modified date
4. Sort files into the right order
5. Print only the top 10 lines

Use a shell function to
define “newest” that takes
an optional argument

```
newest () {
```

```
}
```


How to specify an
optional argument?

```
newest () {  
    lines=10  
    if [[ $1 != "" ]]; then  
        lines=$1  
    fi
```

```
}
```


How to list all files in a
directory tree?

ls -R

Will list files recursively,
but will order them by
directory

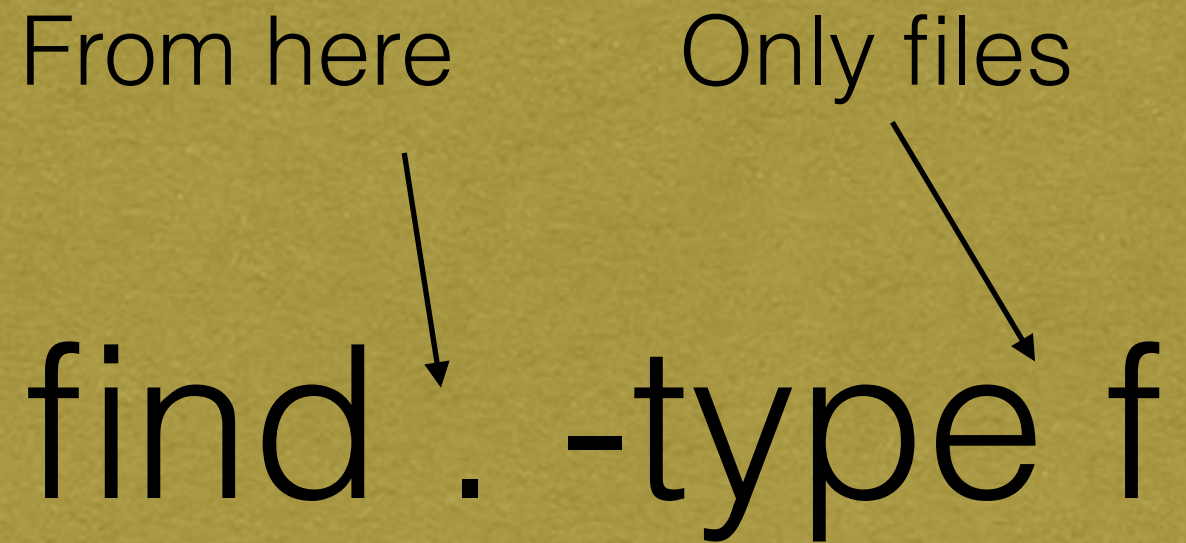
find

```
find . -type f
```


From here

Only files

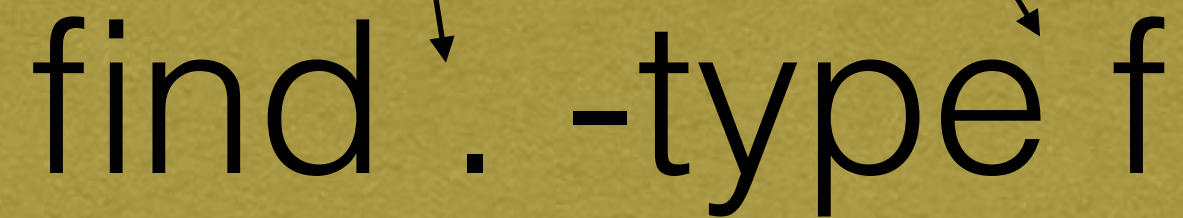
find . -type f



From here

Only files

find . -type f



```
(helen@sund29736[ttys009])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
(0)-(o)% find . -type f
./chemicals
./solutions/sam.py
```


How to get the last
modified date for a file?

find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n'

```
(helen@Helens-MacBook-Pro[ttys007])-(~/Google Drive/Human-Virus-PPI/data)
(0)-(o)% find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n'|head
1520072281.000000000000 ./DS_Store
1519736844.000000000000 ./STRING-VIRUSES-INSTALL.swp
1515412339.000000000000 ./swp
1464360694.000000000000 ./A
1504086376.000000000000 ./actions_inconsistencies
1418833586.000000000000 ./alberto-payload/create_payload.py
 496841761.000000000000 ./alberto-payload/Icon
1418833739.000000000000 ./alberto-payload/stringrnautils.py
1418833742.000000000000 ./alberto-payload/stringrnautils.pyc
1464360700.000000000000 ./B
```


find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n'

UNIX time: Seconds since Jan 1 1970

```
(helen@Helens-MacBook-Pro[ttys007])-(~/Google Drive/Human-Virus-PPI/data)
(0)-(o)% find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n'|head
1520072281.000000000000 ./DS_Store
1519736844.000000000000 ./STRING-VIRUSES-INSTALL.swp
1515412339.000000000000 ./swp
1464360694.000000000000 ./A
1504086376.000000000000 ./actions_inconsistencies
1418833586.000000000000 ./alberto-payload/create_payload.py
 496841761.000000000000 ./alberto-payload/Icon
1418833739.000000000000 ./alberto-payload/stringrnautils.py
1418833742.000000000000 ./alberto-payload/stringrnautils.pyc
1464360700.000000000000 ./B
```

```
newest () {  
    lines=10  
    if [[ $1 != "" ]]; then  
        lines=$1  
    fi  
    find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n' |  
  
}
```


How to sort on the
dates?

sort -n


```
newest () {  
    lines=10  
    if [[ $1 != "" ]]; then  
        lines=$1  
    fi  
    find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n' |  
    sort -n |  
  
}
```

How to show the last
\$lines lines?


```
newest () {  
    lines=10  
    if [[ $1 != "" ]]; then  
        lines=$1  
    fi  
    find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n' |  
    sort -n |  
    tail -n $lines |  
  
}
```

How to show only the
filenames?

cut

Field delimiter is a space

cut -f2- -d " "

Print field 2 and onwards


```
newest () {  
    lines=10  
    if [[ $1 != "" ]]; then  
        lines=$1  
    fi  
    find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n' |  
    sort -n |  
    tail -n $lines |  
    cut -f2- -d " "  
}
```

```
newest () {  
    local lines=10  
    if [[ $1 != "" ]]; then  
        lines=$1  
    fi  
    find . -type f -printf '%T@ %p \n' |  
    sort -n |  
    tail -n $lines |  
    cut -f2- -d " "  
}
```


But it doesn't work on
my Mac

Gnu find has -printf
BSD find doesn't



Homebrew

The missing package manager for macOS

<http://brew.sh>

```
brew install coreutils
```

How to get the last
modified date for a file?


```
stat -f "%m %N"
```


How to run a command
on each file found?

xargs

find ... | xargs <cmd>

```
(helen@sund29736[ttys009])-(~/projects/type-less/examples)
(0)-(o)% find . -type f -print0 | xargs -0 ls -lt
-rwxr-xr-x  1 helen  staff   1723 Mar  8 11:10 ./solutions/sam.py
-rw-r--r--  1 helen  staff 35785 Feb  1 12:05 ./chemicals
```

```
newest () {  
    lines=10  
    if [[ $1 != "" ]]; then  
        lines=$1  
    fi  
    find . -type f -print0 |  
    xargs -0 stat -f "%m %N" |  
    sort -n |  
    tail -n $lines |  
    cut -f2 -d " "  
}
```



```
newest () {  
    local lines=10  
    if [[ $1 != "" ]]; then  
        lines=$1  
    fi  
    find . -type f -print0 |  
    xargs -0 stat -f "%m %N" |  
    sort -n |  
    tail -n $lines |  
    cut -f2 -d " "  
}
```


How to avoid awk for
tab delimited files?


```
awk -F"\t" '{print $3 "\t" $5 "\t" $3 "\t"}'
```



```
awk -F"\t" '{print $3 "\t" $5 "\t" $3 "\t"}'
```

This is terrible

Let's replace:

```
awk -F"\t" '{print $3 "\t" $5 "\t" $3 "\t"}'
```

With:

```
tab 3 5 2
```


tab — outline

1. Get columns to print from cmd line
2. Build up awk print string
3. Run awk

Use a script to define “tab”

Pass the column numbers
as arguments

```
#!/bin/sh
```


How to get the
arguments to a script?

First argument is in \$1
Second is in \$2
etc...

How to iterate through
all arguments?

while \$1 is not empty:
shift the arg array to move
the next arg into \$1

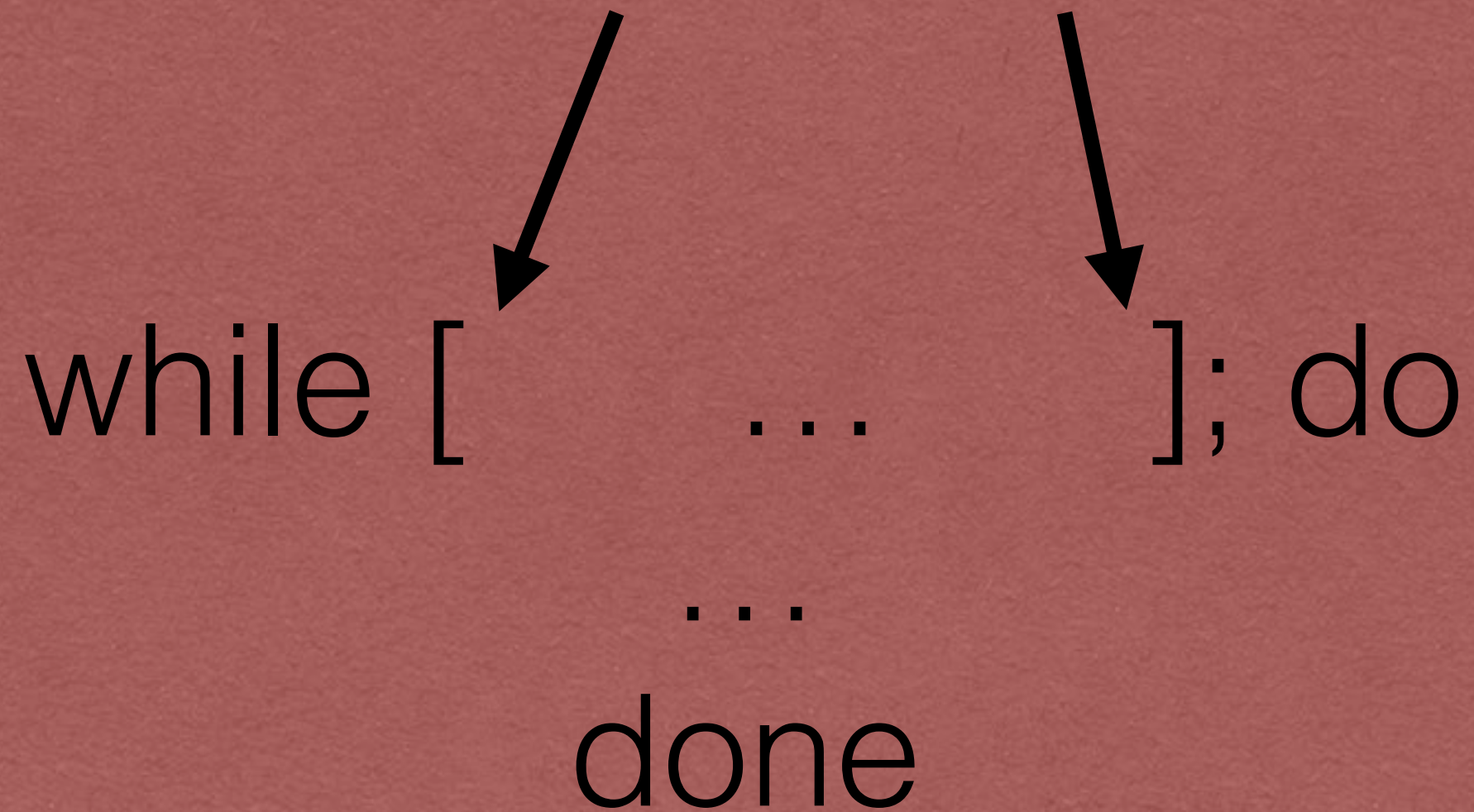
What is the syntax for
while condition in sh?


```
while [ ... ]; do
```

```
...
```

```
done
```


MANDATORY SPACES!!



The diagram illustrates the mandatory spaces in a while loop syntax. At the top, the text "MANDATORY SPACES!!" has two arrows pointing down to the opening square bracket '[' and the closing square bracket ']' in the code snippet below. The code snippet is written across three lines: "while [" on the first line, "...];" on the second line, and "do" on the third line. The ellipsis "..." between the brackets is split across two lines: "..." on the first line and "..." on the second line, with the word "done" centered below the second ellipsis.

```
while [      ...      ] ; do
      ...
done
```

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
while [ ]; do
```

```
done;
```



```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
```

```
    shift;
```

```
done;
```

How to construct the
awk string?

1

1 \t 2

1 \t 2 \t 3

... and get the quoting correct

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
first=1
```

```
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
```

```
    if [ $first == 1 ]; then
```

```
        first=0
```

```
    else
```

```
    fi
```

```
    shift;
```

```
done;
```


How to concatenate
strings in sh?


```
str = "some"
```

```
str = "$str"more
```



```
#!/bin/sh
printstring=""
first=1
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
    if [ $first == 1 ]; then

        first=0
    else

        fi
    shift;
done;
```

```
#!/bin/sh
printstring=""
first=1
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
    if [ $first == 1 ]; then
        printstring=
        first=0
    else
        printstring=
    fi
    shift;
done;
```



```
#!/bin/sh
printstring=""
first=1
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
    if [ $first == 1 ]; then
        printstring="$"$1
        first=0
    else
        printstring=
    fi
    shift;
done;
```

```
#!/bin/sh
printstring=""
first=1
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
    if [ $first == 1 ]; then
        printstring="$"$1
        first=0
    else
        printstring=$printstring"\t"
    fi
    shift;
done;
```



```
#!/bin/sh
printstring=""
first=1
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
    if [ $first == 1 ]; then
        printstring="$"$1
        first=0
    else
        printstring=$printstring"\t""$"$1
    fi
    shift;
done;
```

```
#!/bin/sh
printstring=""
first=1
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
    if [ $first == 1 ]; then
        printstring="$1"
        first=0
    else
        printstring=$printstring"\t"$1
    fi
    shift;
done;
awk -F"\t" '{print $printstring}'
```



```
#!/bin/sh
printstring=""
first=1
while [ "$1" != "" ]; do
    if [ $first == 1 ]; then
        printstring="$"$1
        first=0
    else
        printstring=$printstring""\t""$"$1
    fi
    shift;
done;
awk -F"\t" '{print '$printstring}'
```


Alias, function or script?

Alias

Just replaces text
Best for changing defaults of commands

Function

Takes arguments
Is in memory
Executes quickly
(autoload in some shells)

Script

Spawns new process
Can write in any language

~\$

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CONE, THOMAS R	VETERANS AFFAIRS	BUFFALO	VETERANS HEALTH AD...	5		MEDICAL SUPPORT A...
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CONENELLO, GINA MIC...	HEALTH AND HUMAN S...	SILVER SPRING	FOOD AND DRUG ADMI...	0		GEN NATURAL RESOU...
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CONERLY, ALBERT	HEALTH AND HUMAN S...	SILVER SPRING	FOOD AND DRUG ADMI...	15		MISCELLANEOUS ADM...
CONERLY, CAROLYN E	VETERANS AFFAIRS	JOHNSON CITY	VETERANS HEALTH AD...	0		SOCIAL WORK
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CONERLY, JOYCE A	HEALTH AND HUMAN S...	BETHESDA	NATIONAL INSTITUTE...	14		HUMAN RESOURCES M...
CONERLY, KATINA R	VETERANS AFFAIRS	NEW ORLEANS	VETERANS HEALTH AD...	6		DENTAL ASSISTANT
CONERLY, LACI L	VETERANS AFFAIRS	ALEXANDRIA	VETERANS HEALTH AD...	6		PRACTICAL NURSE
CONERLY, MARY C	VETERANS AFFAIRS	DALLAS	VETERANS HEALTH AD...	2		NURSE
CONERLY, OCTAVIA D.		WASHINGTON	ENVIRONMENTAL PROT...	13		GENERAL PHYSICAL ...
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VisiData (`vd` on the command-line) is an [open-source](#) multitool for interacting with tabular data from within the terminal. It's great for investigative journalists, data scientists, unix command-line users, and anyone else who wants to quickly look at or manipulate data.

<http://visidata.org/>

(vi for spreadsheets)

Visidata tutorial:

<https://jsvine.github.io/intro-to-visidata/>

Exercises

Implement an alias, function or script
for something that you do frequently
(and share it!)

A short explanation of the
conventions used for the
following exercises

Questions
are on blue slides

Answers
are on yellow slides

Hints and explanations
are on green slides

Pitfalls/traps/avoid
are on red slides

Exercises
are on purple slides

Code
is on white slides

How to not print output
on STDERR?

2> /dev/null