IC221 Lab1 Shell Commands Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AY24 Spring, 120 points total

Setup

Create a working folder and cd into it

Download lab.tar.gz to your working folder

Extract the files: tar -xzvf lab.tar.gz

cd stu

Submission

Submit this completed worksheet to https://submit.usna.edu

**Part 1: The Manual Pages (30)**

Unix/Linux systems are well documented through a set of *manual pages*. To access the manuals, use the man command. For example, to view the manual page for ls:

$ man ls

This brings up the manual page, whose header looks like this:

NAME

ls - list directory contents

SYNOPSIS

ls [OPTION]... [FILE]...

DESCRIPTION

List information about the FILEs (the current directory by default). Sort entries alphabetically if none

of -cftuvSUX nor --sort is specified.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

-a, --all

do not ignore entries starting with .

-A, --almost-all

do not list implied . and ..

The manual page provides both a brief description of the command and the arguments and options. For example, we see that the option -a or --all both list all entries for the directory, including . and .. and all hidden files starting with . while, conversely, the -A or --almost-all option list all hidden files while *not* displaying the *.* or .. entries.

This is just one of many options for the ls command, and you can scroll down using the up and down arrow key.

Quit the manual page by presssing q.

Lab Questions and Tasks

Perform the following tasks and answer the following questions:

1. (10 points) For the ls command, what option prints information out in long form, like -l, but does *not* print any group ownership information?

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| --- |
|  |

Provide a copy of the output using ls with this option run from the top level of the lab directory.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2. Change into the part1 directory and type ls. You will see a list of files: a b c d e f g. Note that ls lists the files in alphabetic order.

(a) (4 points) What ls option will list the files in *reverse* alphabetic order?

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| --- |
|  |

Provide a copy of your output of your ls with the *reverse* option, and the addition of -l.

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| --- |
|  |

(b) (3 points) What ls options will sort the files by size, from largest to smallest?

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Provide a copy of your output of your ls by file size, with the addition of -l.

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| --- |
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(c) (3 points) What ls option(s) will sort the files in *reverse size order* (from smallest to largest)?

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| --- |
|  |

Provide a copy of your output of your ls in reverse size order, with the addition of -l.

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| --- |
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3. (5 points) Remove the g file using the rm command. Notice that the shell asked you to confirm removing the item. Look at the manual page for rm. What option can you use to avoid having to confirm the removal of an item?

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| --- |
|  |

4. (5 points) Read the manual page for the touch command. One of the uses for touch is to update the last modified timestamp of a file (you can view that last modified using ls -l). Use the touch command to create a file y2k whose last modification time was Dec. 31 1999 at 23:59.59. Include the command you used on your worksheet and a copy of your ls -l output of the y2k file.

Command Used:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Output of ls -l:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Part 2: Text File Operations (30)**

Some Unix/Linux shell commands are used for viewing and changing the contents of files.

Viewing Files

The command to display a file’s contents is the cat command, which is short for concatenate. Here is the man page synopsis for cat:

NAME

cat -- concatenate and print files

SYNOPSIS

cat [-benstuv] [file ...]

DESCRIPTION

The cat utility reads files sequentially, writing them to the standard output. The file operands

are processed in command-line order. If file is a single dash (`-') or absent, cat reads from the

standard input. If file is a UNIX domain socket, cat connects to it and then reads it until EOF.

This complements the UNIX domain binding capability available in inetd(8).

The cat command takes a file or sequence of files and writes them to *standard out*, which is the terminal. Let's do a quick example. Navigate to part2 in the lab directory, and let's cat the output of the gonavy.txt file:

$ cat gonavy.txt

Go Navy!

cat can also take multiple files as input, and print their contents to the terminal one after the other, or *concatenate* the contents by printing it all to standard output. Let's use the cat command to view the contents of the files in part2 of the lab directory. Use cd to navigate there.

$ cat gonavy.txt beatarmy.txt

Go Navy!

Beat Army!

The contents of beatarmy.txt is "Beat Army!" and the contents of gonavy.txt is "Go Navy!”. The concatenation of those contents is "Go Navy! Beat Army!" across two lines.

Viewing files with less and more

One drawback of viewing files with cat is that it clutters up the terminal output. You could always clear the terminal using clear or Control-l (go ahead and try that now), but it can get bothersome the more you need to do so.

Unix provides two ways to view a file *iteratively* (not all at once) within a terminal application: less and more. The basic difference between the two file viewers is that less allows you to go forward and backwards in a file while more only allows you to move forward in the file, exiting at the end. Thus, in Unix/Linux, less is really more.

Let's see an example of why this is useful. Consider two great authors of literature, Charles Dickens and Ernest Hemingway. Dickens was paid by the word and so his stories are very long indeed, while Hemingway was a minimalist, and his stories were quite short. In the part2 directory you have two text files, one named dickens.txt and one named hemingway.txt.

We can easily read hemingway.txt using more, moving forward in the file by pressing <space> to page down, or by using the down-arrow key. The indicator at the bottom of the screen describes how far in the file we've progressed.

Let's now use more to read dickens.txt … oh man! This is going to take forever, and there is only one way to go, forward. Clearly, we need a more powerful viewer, so we use less. The less command allows you to move forward and back within the file, plus a bunch of other useful navigation tools. Here are some:

* Quit: **q**
* Search forward: **/** then type your search (regex allowed) then use the following
  + Next match going forwards: **n**
  + Next match going backwards: **N**
* Search backward: **?** then type your search (regex allowed) then use the following
  + Next going backwards: **n**
  + Next match going forwards: **N**
* Go to line: **:** then type line number
* Start of file: **<**
* End of file: **>**
* Panic: **CTRL-g**

Lab Questions and Tasks:

1. (5 points) Use cat to output a "Beat Army!", then Hemingway's story, then "Go Navy!" at the end. Use only a single command. Show the command you used:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2. (5 points) Why is less more?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3. Use less to open dickens.txt.

(a) (5 points) Search for the first instance of "Fagin". What is the full text of the sentence in which it first occurs?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

(b) (5 points) Find the second to last instance of "Fagin". Describe how you did that:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Copy the text of the sentence it appears in:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

(c) (10 points) Go to line 2691. What is the name of that chapter?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Part 3: Viewing Portions of Files (30)**

When we do want to print the contents of a file to the terminal, we may not want to print the whole thing, as cat does. Instead, sometimes we'd like just to print the first *n* lines, or the last *n* lines, or some set of lines in the middle, or just print lines that match a given search string. For that we have set of very useful commands.

For the following examples, navigate to the part3 directory in the lab directory. There is a sample file sample-db.csv that you will use for this part that contains fake records of people entering information on a web server.

View the first or last *n* lines with head or tail

The head command is used to print the ‘head’ of the file. By default, head prints the first 10 lines:

$ head sample-db.csv

Similarly, tail by default will show the last 10 lines:

$ tail sample-db.csv

You can describe how many lines you wish to show in two ways, either by using -n argument, where n is replaced by the number of lines. For example, to print the first 3 lines:

$ head -3 sample-db.csv

Or, by passing the number of lines after -n

$ head -n 3 sample-db.csv

Printing intermediate lines with sed

The sed command is very powerful, and it has many more features than just printing intermediary lines. Here is the format of the sed command:

Line Number Input

| ,--File to process

v v

sed -n 3,10p filename

^ ^^

Start---' ||

Finish-----''---Print those lines

As an example, what if we want to print lines 2 through 4 of the file only:

$ sed -n 2,4p sample-db.csv

Donette,Foller,Printing Dimensions,34 Center St,Hamilton,Butler,OH,45011,513-570-1893,513-549-4561,donette.foller@cox.net,http://www.printingdimensions.com

Mitsue,Tollner,Morlong Associates,7 Eads St,Chicago,Cook,IL,60632,773-573-6914,773-924-8565,mitsue\_tollner@yahoo.com,http://www.morlongassociates.com

Leota,Dilliard,Commercial Press,7 W Jackson Blvd,San Jose,Santa Clara,CA,95111,408-752-3500,408-813-1105,leota@hotmail.com,http://www.commercialpress.com

Printing only matching lines with grep

Finally, we need a mechanism to only process lines that match a condition. The grep command is used for that.

For example, let's consider trying to just print the lines where the person is from the state of New Jersey. To do that, we need to first identify a unique part of lines for people from New Jersey, and that is "NJ" in the address field.

$ grep NJ sample-db.csv

Art,Venere,Chemel, James L Cpa,8 W Cerritos Ave #54,Bridgeport,Gloucester,**NJ**,08014,856-636-8749,856-264-4130,art@venere.org,http://www.chemeljameslcpa.com

Alisha,Slusarski,Wtlz Power 107 Fm,3273 State St,Middlesex,Middlesex,**NJ**,08846,732-658-3154,732-635-3453,alisha@slusarski.com,http://www.wtlzpowerfm.com

Ernie,Stenseth,Knwz Newsradio,45 E Liberty St,Ridgefield Park,Bergen,**NJ**,07660,201-709-6245,201-387-9093,ernie\_stenseth@aol.com,http://www.knwznewsradio.com

(...)

Note that in a grep command, the first part is the search term and the second part is the file to be searched. The grep command can also be used with a special search language called *regular expressions*, which allow you to search for all sorts of things.

Lab Questions and Tasks

1. (10 points) Using the man pages for head and tail, produce a command line to print the first kilobyte of the file netflix\_titles.csv. A kilobyte is 210 or 1024 bytes.

Command used:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2. (10 points) Use less or grep to find the line number of the entry in netflix\_titles.csv containing the text "V for Vendetta". Be sure to enclose your search term in quotes.

Line Number:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Command(s) Used:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3. (10 points) Produce a sed command to just print the line with "V for Vendetta" and the 2 lines that follow it. Note that the movie listing numbers will not exactly match the text line numbers.

Command:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Part 4: Pipelines and Output Processing (30)**

An important tool for file processing is to be able to take the output of processing one file and set the result as the input to another process. These process parts can be chained together into a pipeline. Consider this simple pipeline below:

$ cat sample-db.csv | head -20

The pipe or | takes the output of one command and sets it as the input of another. In the example above, the output of the cat is to print the whole contents of the file to the input of head, which then only prints the first 20 lines of its input. While this is a contrived example, you should start to see the power of the pipeline. Consider the below command:

$ grep NJ sample-db.csv | wc -l

The first part of the command will print out only the lines that contain the pattern "NJ", this output is then set as the input to the wc command, which is a command line tools to count words, lines, and bytes. The -l option says to just print the line count, and thus, the command above prints out the number of lines.

Nearly all Unix command line tools have an option to either read from a file or from standard input along a pipeline. For example, the above command can be rewritten with cat at the front, as follows:

$ cat sample-db.csv | grep NJ | wc -l

Parsing just certain fields with cut

A very useful pipeline tool is cut, which is used to extract fields from a formatted file, like our database file. Here is a basic command line argument:

,--- delimiter

\_\_|\_ ,-----Input File, or leave off to read from stdin

/ \ v

$ cut -d "," -f 1 sample-db.csv | head -5

\\_\_/

\\_\_.-- Field

The delimiter determines how the file is to be cut. The sample-db.csv file is a comma separated file, so it is delimited by commas; that is, every item in the line is separated by comma to distinguish it from other items on the line. The above command will print the first 5 lines of output from the first delimited item:

$ cut -d "," -f 1 sample-db.csv | head -5

Lenna

Donette

Mitsue

Leota

Sage

Sorting and Removing Duplicates

Two parsing tools we'll use for sorting in this lab are sort and uniq. The former will sort input and the latter will remove any *adjacent* duplicate lines. Check out their man pages to see how they might be used in conjunction, to solve different file parsing problems.

Transposing text with tr

The tr command is the *translate character* tool. It takes two arguments:

tr <from> <to>

It will read from standard input and convert any instances of “from” to “to”. For example, if we wish to list phone numbers we find:

$ cut -d, -f 9 sample-db.csv | head

907-385-4412

513-570-1893

773-573-6914

408-752-3500

605-414-2147

631-335-3414

310-498-5651

440-780-8425

602-277-4385

And if we wish to replace the hyphen with a space, we can do so easily like this:

$ cut -d, -f 9 sample-db.csv | tr "-" " " | head

907 385 4412

513 570 1893

773 573 6914

408 752 3500

605 414 2147

631 335 3414

310 498 5651

440 780 8425

602 277 4385

Lab Questions and Tasks

1. (10 points) Create a pipeline to count the number of unique states represented in the database file. Use sort -u to identify unique states.

Answer:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Command Used:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2. (10 points) How many first names (first field) in the file repeat?

Answer:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Command Used:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3. (10 points) Write a pipeline to print to the terminal a reverse-sorted list (larger numbers followed by smaller numbers) of all the unique telephone area codes found in field 9.

Command Used:

|  |
| --- |
|  |