

[Home](#) › [Tools](#) › Unix Sed commands for Java developers

# Unix Sed commands for Java developers

Posted on [April 6, 2015](#) by [Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai](#)

sed (stream editor) is one of the powerful workhorse commands in UNIX. Recently I had to use it with “Git” and “Maven” to find text “SNAPSHOT” in all pom.xml files, and manually update them with a release version like 1.0.2 without the suffix “SNAPSHOT”. Here is the command that I ran.

```
1 find . -maxdepth 2 -type f -name pom.xml -exec g
```

**Example 1:** substitute Java with C. s → substitute

```
1 $ echo "Java is a great language" | sed s/Java/C
2 C is a great language
3
```

**Example 2:** to extract “Peter” from “user\_name=Peter”.

```
1 $ echo "user_name=Peter" | sed "s/^user_name=\(C
2 Peter
3
```

**600+ Full Stack Java Interview Questions Answered ♥Free ♦FAQs [Mouse Hover for full title text]**

[open all](#) | [close all](#)

[Ice Breaker Interview](#)

[Core Java Interview C](#)

[JEE Interview Q&A \(3](#)

[Pressed for time? Jav](#)

[Job Interview Ice B](#)

[FAQ Core Java J](#)

[FAQ JEE Job Inter](#)

[♦ 12 FAQ JDBC](#)

[♦ 16 FAQ JMS ir](#)

[♦ 8 Java EE \(aka](#)

[♦ Q01-Q28: Top](#)

[♦ Q29-Q53: Top](#)

[01: ♦ 12 Web ba](#)

[06: ♦ MVC0, MV](#)

[JavaScript mista](#)

[JavaScript Vs J](#)

[JNDI and LDAP](#)

[JSF interview Q](#)

[JSON interview](#)

The above uses the regular expression.

`^user_name=` → starts with “user\_name=”

`\` → regex escape character

`(` → grouping start

`.*` → 0 or more of any character. `.` means any and `*` 0 or more characters

`)` → grouping end. so, anything that follows **user\_name=** will be captured as `\1`. “**Peter**” is captured as `\1`.

so, “user\_name=Peter” will be substituted as “Peter”.

The above command is handy for extracting values from a Java **.properties** file that has name=value pairs. To assign extracted values to variables, use `-n`, which is the silent mode and will not print it in the screen.

```
1 typeset username
2 username = `cat /etc/myapp.properties | sed -n "
3`
```

myapp.properties should look like

user\_name=Peter

**p** → print

**Example 3:** To fix all occurrences of term “java” in the old.txt file with “Java”, and write the output to file new.txt.

```
1 sed "s/java/Java/g" < old.txt > new.txt
2`
```

**Example 4:**

**Q.** How will you display the contents of a file named **myapp\_last\_run\_date.dat**?

**A.** **cat** command to display

**Output is say:**

- [FAQ Java Web Ser](#)
- [Java Application Ar](#)
- [Hibernate Job Inter](#)
- [Spring Job Interview](#)
- [Java Key Area Ess](#)
- [OOP & FP Essenti](#)
- [Code Quality Job I](#)
- [SQL, XML, UML, JSC](#)
- [Hadoop & BigData Int](#)
- [Java Architecture Inte](#)
- [Scala Interview Q&As](#)
- [Spring, Hibernate, & I](#)
- [Testing & Profiling/Sa](#)
- [Other Interview Q&A t](#)
- [Finance Domain In](#)
- [FIX Interview Q&A](#)
- [Groovy Interview C](#)
- [JavaScript Interview](#)
- [Unix Interview Q&A](#)
  - ♥ 14 Unix intervi
  - ♥ Hidden Unix, C
  - sed and awk to v
  - Shell script inter
  - Unix history com
  - Unix remoting in
  - Unix Sed comm
- [Free Java Interview](#)

## 16 Technical Key Areas

open all | close all

- [Best Practice \(6\)](#)
- [Coding \(26\)](#)
- [Concurrency \(6\)](#)
- [Design Concepts \(7\)](#)
- [Design Patterns \(11\)](#)
- [Exception Handling \(3\)](#)
- [Java Debugging \(21\)](#)
- [Judging Experience I](#)

May 21 2014 12:00AM |

**Q.** How will you extract out the date from the above format?

**A.**

**Step 1:** get the first line.

```
1 $ cat wrap_last_run_date.dat | head -1
2
```

outputs first line of the file "wrap\_last\_run\_date.dat "

May 21 2014 12:00AM |

**Step 2:** Trim all the white spaces with the sed command

```
1 $ cat wrap_last_run_date.dat | head -1 | sed -e
2
```

**outputs**

|May 21 2014 12:00AM|

**Step 3:** Remove the last pipe with regex "\$". "-e" means expression,

```
1 cat wrap_last_run_date.dat | head -1 | sed -e 's
2
```

**outputs**

|May 21 2014 12:00AM

**Step 4:** Remove the starting pipe with regex "^|". "g" means global change

- ⊞ [Low Latency \(7\)](#)
- ⊞ [Memory Management \(13\)](#)
- ⊞ [Performance \(13\)](#)
- ⊞ [QoS \(8\)](#)
- ⊞ [Scalability \(4\)](#)
- ⊞ [SDLC \(6\)](#)
- ⊞ [Security \(13\)](#)
- ⊞ [Transaction Management \(13\)](#)

## 80+ step by step Java Tutorials

[open all](#) | [close all](#)

- ⊞ [Setting up Tutorial \(6\)](#)
- ⊞ [Tutorial - Diagnosis \(2\)](#)
- ⊞ [Akka Tutorial \(9\)](#)
- ⊞ [Core Java Tutorials \(2\)](#)
- ⊞ [Hadoop & Spark Tutorial \(1\)](#)
- ⊞ [JEE Tutorials \(19\)](#)
- ⊞ [Scala Tutorials \(1\)](#)
- ⊞ [Spring & Hibernate Tutorial \(1\)](#)
- ⊞ [Tools Tutorials \(19\)](#)
- ⊞ [Other Tutorials \(45\)](#)
  - ⊞ [SQL Tutorial \(1\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Drools Tutorial \(5\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Apache POI Tutorial \(1\)](#)
  - ⊞ [DOS Tutorial \(2\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Dozer Tutorial \(2\)](#)
  - ⊞ [ESB Tutorials \(1\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Groovy Beginner Tutorial \(1\)](#)
  - ⊞ [JasperReport Tutorial \(1\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Logging and auditing \(1\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Metrics Tutorial \(2\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Orika Mapping Tutorial \(1\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Pentaho Kettle with Java \(1\)](#)
  - ⊞ [Unix Tutorial \(6\)](#)
- ⊞ [♥ 14 Unix interview questions](#)
- ⊞ [Shell script interview questions](#)
- ⊞ [SSH Login with passwordless](#)

```
1 cat wrap_last_run_date.dat | head -1 | sed -e 's
```

## outputs

May 21 2014 12:00AM

**Step 5:** to break the commands in multiple lines, use “\”

```
1 cat wrap_last_run_date.dat | head -1 | \
2 sed -e 's/ *| */|/g' -e 's/\\|$/|' \
3 -e 's/^|/|/g'
4
```

## outputs

May 21 2014 12:00AM

## Popular Member Posts

01: ♦ 15+ Hibernate basics Q1 – Q7 interview questions & answers

1,769 views

♦ 11 Spring boot interview questions & answers

928 views

♦ Q11-Q23: Top 50+ Core on Java OOP Interview Questions & Answers

831 views

01: ♦ 15 Beginner level Java multi-threading interview Q&A

532 views

001A: ♦ 7+ Java integration styles & patterns interview questions & answers

428 views

18 Java scenarios based interview Questions and Answers

395 views

♦ 7 Java debugging interview questions & answers

322 views

[Unix remoting in](#)  
[Unix Sed comm](#)  
[Unix tutorial with](#)  
[Webspeher MQ Tu](#)  
[YAML Tutorial \(1\)](#)

## 100+ Java pre-interview coding tests

[open all](#) | [close all](#)

[Can you write code? \(](#)  
[♦ Complete the given](#)  
[Converting from A to I](#)  
[Designing your classe](#)  
[Java Data Structures](#)  
[Passing the unit tests](#)  
[What is wrong with th](#)  
[Writing Code Home A](#)  
[Written Test Core Jav](#)  
[Written Test JEE \(1\)](#)

## How good are your .....?

[open all](#) | [close all](#)

[Career Making Know-](#)  
[Job Hunting & Resum](#)

## 01: ♦ 15 Ice breaker questions asked 90% of the time in Java job interviews with hints

300 views

## ♦ 10 ERD (Entity-Relationship Diagrams) Interview Questions and Answers

299 views

## 01b: ♦ 13 Spring basics Q8 – Q13 interview questions & answers

297 views

0

Like

Share

Tweet

↑

submit

↓

reddit

0

G+1

Share

3

Bio

Latest Posts



### Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai

Mechanical Eng to freelance Java developer in 3 yrs. Contracting since 2003, and attended 150+ Java job interviews, and often got 4 - 7 job offers to choose from. It pays to prepare. Published Java interview Q&A books via [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) in 2005, and sold 35,000+ copies. Books are outdated and replaced with this subscription based site. **945+** paid members. [join my LinkedIn Group](#) to get notified of special offers. User & expert [reviews](#).



### About Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai

Mechanical Eng to freelance Java developer in 3 yrs. Contracting since 2003, and attended 150+ Java job interviews, and often got 4 - 7 job offers to choose from. It pays to prepare. Published Java interview Q&A books via [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) in 2005, and sold 35,000+ copies. Books are outdated and replaced with

this subscription based site. **945+** paid members. [join my LinkedIn Group](#) to get notified of special offers. User & expert [reviews](#).

◀ Maven assembly & Shade plugins examples & uber jar creation

How to write internalized Java applications? ▶

**Posted in** Tools, Unix Interview Q&A, Unix Tutorial

## Empowers you to open more doors, and fast-track

### Technical Know Hows

☀ [Java generics in no time](#) ☀ [Top 6 tips to transforming your thinking from OOP to FP](#) ☀ [How does a HashMap internally work?](#)

[What is a hashing function?](#)

☀ [10+ Java String class interview Q&As](#) ☀ [Java auto un/boxing benefits & caveats](#) ☀ [Top 11 slacknesses that can come back and bite you as an experienced Java developer or architect](#)

### Non-Technical Know Hows

☀ [6 Aspects that can motivate you to fast-track your career & go places](#) ☀ [Are you reinventing yourself as a Java developer?](#) ☀ [8 tips to safeguard your Java career against offshoring](#) ☀ [My top 5 career mistakes](#)

## Prepare to succeed

☀ [Turn readers of your Java CV go from “Blah blah” to “Wow”?](#) ☀ [How to prepare for Java job interviews?](#) ☀ [16 Technical Key Areas](#) ☀ [How to choose from multiple Java job offers?](#)

Select Category ▼

© **Disclaimer**

The contents in this Java-Success are copy righted. The author has the right to correct or enhance the current content without any prior notice.

These are general advice only, and one needs to take his/her own circumstances into consideration. The author will not be held liable for any damages caused or alleged to be caused either directly or indirectly by these materials and resources. Any trademarked names or labels used in this blog remain the property of their respective trademark owners. No guarantees are made regarding the accuracy or usefulness of content, though I do make an effort to be accurate. Links to external sites do not imply endorsement of the linked-to sites.