

Text Processing in Linux - The Sort Command #1

Problem Statement

The 'Sort' Command Line Program

This is frequently used for sorting input in text or TSV formats, in various different ways supported by it; which may be either lexicographical, case insensitive, based on the numeric field only, based on a particular column, etc.

Here are some quick notes about 'sort'. The working examples provided in the added reference links might also help.

The vanilla 'sort' command simply sorts the lines of the input file in lexicographical order.

The **-n** option sorts the file on the basis of the numeric field available, if the first word or column in the file is a number.

The **-r** option reverses the sorting order to either the reverse of the usual lexicographical ordering, or descending order (while sorting in numerical mode).

The **-k** option is useful while sorting a table of data (tsv, csv etc.) based on a specified column (or columns).

The **-t** option is used while specifying a delimiter in a particular file (where columns are separated by tabs, spaces, pipes etc.).

A few useful resources to study different variants of the **sort** command are:

[A Wikipedia entry for the 'sort' command](#)

[How to Sort Files in Linux using Sort Command](#)

Task

Given a file of text, re-order the lines in lexicographical order.

Input Format

A text file

Output Format

The text file, with lines re-ordered in lexicographical order.

Sample Input

```
Dr. Rajendra Prasad   January 26, 1950   May 13, 1962
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan   May 13, 1962   May 13, 1967
Dr. Zakir Hussain     May 13, 1967   August 24, 1969
Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri   August 24, 1969 August 24, 1974
Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed   August 24, 1974 February 11, 1977
Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy   July 25, 1977   July 25, 198
```

Sample Output

```
Dr. Rajendra Prasad   January 26, 1950   May 13, 1962
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan   May 13, 1962   May 13, 1967
Dr. Zakir Hussain     May 13, 1967   August 24, 1969
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