Built-in Filters

Here are ten of the most common (and useful) built-in Unix filter programs.
To find out how to use the program, just type *man command* into Google search,
replacing *command* with the name of the filter program.

1. `cat`: Displays the text of the file line by line.

2. `head`: Displays the first `n` lines of the specified text files. If the number of lines is not specified then by default prints first `10` lines.

3. `tail`: Works the same way as `head`, just in reverse order. The only difference in `tail` is, it returns the lines from bottom to up.

4. `sort`: Sorts the lines alphabetically by default but there are many options available to modify the sorting mechanism. Be sure to check out the *man* page to see everything it can do.

5. `uniq`: Removes duplicate lines. `uniq` only removes continuous duplicate lines. First use `sort` on your data before passing it to `uniq`.

6. `wc:` Prints the number of lines, words and characters in the data.

7. `grep:` Searches for particular information in a text file.

8. `tac`: The reverse of `cat`. Instead of printing from lines `1` through `n`, it prints lines `n` through `1`

9. `sed`: `sed` stands for **stream editor**. It allows you to apply search and replace operations on your data very effectively. `sed` is an advanced filter and all its options can be seen on its *man* page.

10. `nl`: `nl` is used to number the lines of your text data