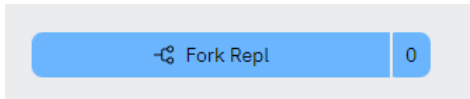
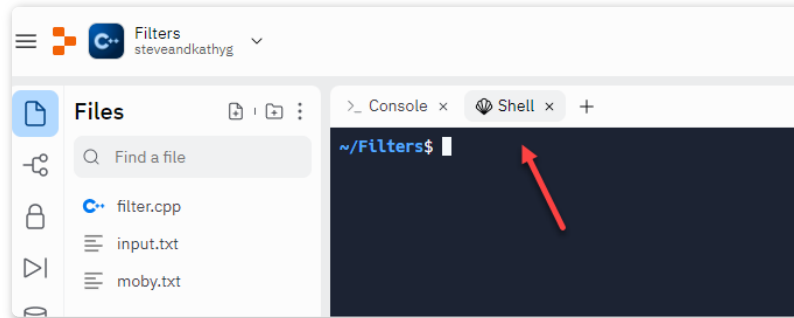


The *cat* Filter

Click the "running man" to open a Repl project which already contains a few files. Click the **Fork Repl** button to get your own copy, and then let's look at a few built-in Unix filters.



Close the editor tab (which contains the **Makefile**) and then click the link for the Shell.



Type the following command in the shell (terminal), and press **ENTER**.

```
$ cat
```

The cursor simply blinks; you **don't** get a new prompt. Go ahead and type a few lines of text, pressing **ENTER** at the end of each line. The **input you typed is echoed** on the next line. Press **CTRL+D** to return to the prompt.

- Filter programs **read from standard input** and **write to standard output**.
- The **cat** filter **concatenates** each input character to standard output. In Windows, the equivalent filter is named **type**.
- The filter **stops** reading when it reaches **end-of-file**. In Unix, you simulate that by typing **CTRL+D** from the terminal. In Windows, it is **CTRL+Z**.

A filter is **not meant to be run interactively**. Instead, it is meant **process a stream of data** that is supplied from a file, a network stream or some other source. The easiest way to supply such a stream is to use **input redirection**.



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