UnixPhilosophy and Workflow

Saurabh Kumar

2013-03-10

40+ years of Unix

- Unix was written in 1969.
- A unique culture and philosophy has evolved around it.
- Small, correct programs that do one thing well.
- Programs should work together.
- Programs should handle text, because text is a universal interface.

Simple != Easy

A learning curve is involved.

RTFM

- Man pages are your friend.
- Try it out. man cat, man less, man tar
- Man pages are divided into sections.
- You can search for man pages using apropos.
- apropos strlen, man 3 strlen

CLI

- A command line interface is very powerful.
- \bullet ls, mkdir foo, cd foo, touch file, cp file ..., mv ../file .
- echo ``Hello'' >> file, cat file
- for i in `seq 1 100`;
 do
 echo "Hello"\$i >>file
 done
- cat file, cat file | less

Concepts

- (Nearly)Every thing is a file.
- Your harddisk is /dev/sda-z
- Standard input, output are /dev/stdin, /dev/stdout
- Piping and redirection. |, <, >, >>
- cat /dev/stdin, cat /dev/stdin >> file, cat /dev/stdin > /dev/stdout
- Burning a usb image: cat debian.iso > /dev/sdb && sync

Other examples

- Download input file from http://sprunge.us/cdGI or from https://raw.github.com/sa1/bisect-demo/master/3lpigs
- tr ' ' '\n' < 3lpigs | sort
 tr ' ' '\n' < 3lpigs | sort | uniq -c | sort -n</pre>
- grep 'wolf' 3lpigs
- sed -i 's/wolf/wolves/g' 3lpigs
- Wildcards: ls fi*, ls *.*

Automate the boring parts

- Script what needs to be done.
- #! /usr/bin/bash
 echo ``Running task'' >> file
- at 0430
 - > notify-send ``Executing task''
 - > ./script.sh
- Use cron for scheduling periodic tasks.
- Startup scripts systemd, /etc/profile.d/, ~/.xinitrc



Unix as your IDE

- A single large IDE vs a large number of tools that work together.
- Edit vim, emacs
- Build make
- Debug gdb, valgrind, strace, lsof
- Version Control git, svn, diff, patch

Editors

- Vim and Emacs
- Syntax highlighting, modes, macros
- Extensibility, plugins lint, syntax checkers.
- Communicating with external programs.

Make

```
CC = gcc
OBJECTS = main.o example.o library.o
BINARY = example
all: example
example: $(OBJECTS)
    $(CC) $(OBJECTS) -o $(BINARY)
docs: docs.html
docs.html: docs.md
    markdown docs.md > docs.html
clean:
    rm -f $(BINARY) $(OBJECTS)
```

Testing

- Use scripts to set up the environment.
- Scripts to test a system.
- Testsuites
- CI- Continuous Integration
- Build, Compile, Test, Fix, Commit.

Version Control

- file1.c, file1final.c, file1 realfinal.c
- git init, echo ``Hello'' >> file, git add file, git commit
- echo ``Hello 2'' >> file, git status, git diff, git add file, git commit
- git log
- Branches, diffs, patches

Git Bisect

- Using binary search to find buggy commits.
- git clone https://github.com/sa1/bisect-demo.git
- git log, git bisect start
- git bisect bad to mark bad commits
- git bisect good to mark good commits.
- git bisect reset to reset.

Thank you

- Feedback
- http://klug.github.com