# Working with Files and Directories



#### **Objectives**

After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

- Determine your location in the directory structure
- View file content
- Copy and move files and directories
- Create and remove files and directories
- Search for files and directories



## Lesson Agenda

- Determining your location in the directory structure
- Viewing file content
- Copying and moving files and directories
- Creating and removing files and directories
- Searching for files and directories



#### Viewing Directories

- A directory is a list of references to objects, that can include files, subdirectories, and symbolic links.
- Each reference consists of two components:
  - A name: The name that is used to identify and access the object.
  - A number: The number specifies the inode where the metadata about the object is stored.
- You can use various commands to display the current directory, view content of a directory, and change directories.

# Determining the Current Directory

The pwd (print working directory) command identifies the full or absolute pathname of the current working directory.

```
$ pwd
/home/oracle
```

**Note:** The pwd command works the same in both Oracle Solaris and Oracle Linux, although the directory structures may be different.

#### Displaying the Directory Content

The ls command displays the content of a directory. The syntax for the ls command is:

```
$ ls [options] ... [filename]
```

To display the contents of the /home/oracle/lab directory, enter the ls command.

```
$ ls
dante dante_1 ... dir1 ... file1 ... fruit ... practice
```

To display the contents of the dirl subdirectory, enter the ls dirl command.

```
$ ls dir1
coffees fruit trees
```

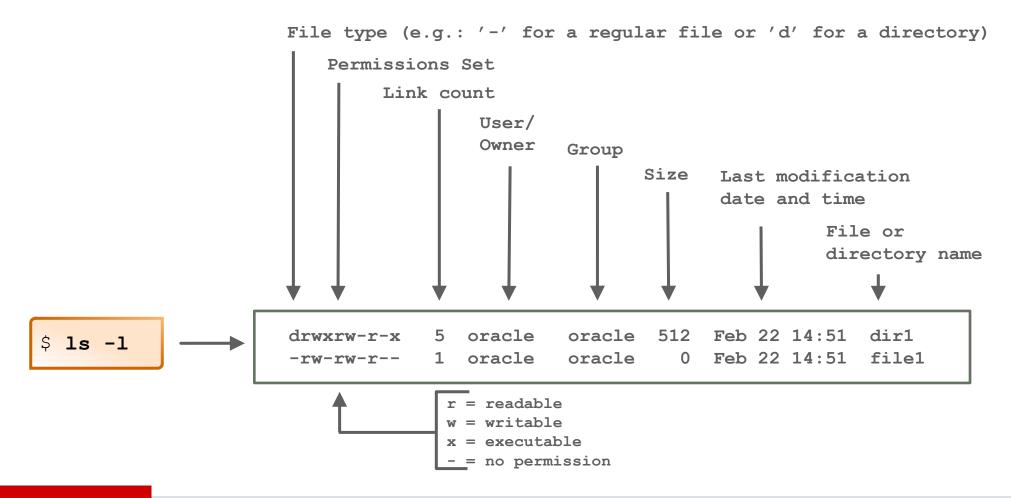
 To display the contents of a directory, you can always use the full pathname to that directory.

```
$ ls /home/oracle/lab/dir2
beans notes recipes
```



# Displaying the Directory Content with Options

• The ls -1 command displays a long listing of file information.



# Displaying the Directory Content with Options

The ls -a command lists all files in a directory, including hidden files and hidden directories. Hidden files and directories are those that begin with a dot symbol or a period (.), sometimes called a dotfile.

```
$ 1s -a
             .gnome2 private
                                  dante
                                                 file2
            .gtkrc-1.2-gnome2
                                                 file3
                                  dante 1
.ICEauthority .metacity
                                  dir1
                                              file4
.Xauthority .mozilla
                                                 fruit
                                  dir2
.bash history .nautilus
                                  dir3
                                                 fruit2
```

 The ls −i command lists the file's or directory's inode number and its corresponding name.

```
$ ls -i dante
12783 dante
```

Note: Your inode number may be different.



# Displaying the Directory Content with Options

The ls -ld command displays detailed information about a directory without showing its content.

```
$ ls -ld directory_name
```

• The ls -R command displays the content of a directory and all its subdirectories. This type of list is known as a recursive list.

```
$ ls -R directory_name
```

 One of the differences between Oracle Solaris and Oracle Linux commands is that Solaris uses a lowercase "-r" for recursive operations and Linux sometimes uses an uppercase "-R".

#### Quiz



What is the function of the ls -a command?

- a. Displays the content of a directory and all subdirectories of the directory
- b. Displays only detailed information about the directory, not its content
- c. Displays detailed information about the content of a directory, including hidden files
- d. Displays all the files in a directory, including hidden files



#### Displaying File Types

The ls -F command or the file command displays the type of file:

```
$ ls -F
dante dir3/ file.2 file3 greetings
dante_1 dir4/ file.3 file4 myvars
$ file dir3
dir3: directory
```

• The following table shows the symbols or indicators used in the ls -F command output:

Indicator	File Type
*	Executable
1	Directory
=	Socket
@	Symbolic link
I	First In First Out (FIFO)

## Displaying File Types

 The file command also helps to determine certain file types. The syntax for the file command is:

```
$ file [options] filename
```

To view the file type for the dante file, enter the file command and specify the name
of the file.

```
$ file dante
dante: ASCII English text
```

• To view the file type for the /usr/bin/passwd executable, enter the file command and specify the name of the file.

```
$ file /usr/bin/passwd
/usr/bin/passwd: setuid ELF 64-bit LSB shared object, ... dynamically linked ...
stripped
```

For more information about file command options, see the file man page.



#### **Changing Directories**

- When working within the directory hierarchy, you always have a current working directory.
- When you initially log in to the system, the current directory is set to your home directory.
- You can change your current working directory at any time by using the cd command:

```
$ cd directory
```

 When you use the cd command without options or arguments, the current working directory changes to your home directory.

## Changing Directories by Using Relative or Absolute Pathname

- You can use either a relative or an absolute pathname to move around the directory hierarchy.
- A relative pathname lists the directories in the path relative to the current working directory.
- An absolute pathname lists all the directories in the path, starting with the root (/) directory.
- The following table describes the relative pathname:

Symbol	Pathname
•	Current or working directory
	Parent directory, the directory directly above the current working directory



# Home Directory

- The home directory of a regular user is where the user is placed after logging in.
- The user can create and store files in the home directory.
- Often the name of a user's home directory is the same as the user's login name.
  - If your user login name is oracle, your home directory on Oracle Linux would be /home/oracle, whereas your home directory on Oracle Solaris could be either /export/home/oracle or /home/oracle.

## Returning to Your Home Directory

- You can return to your home directory by using one of the two methods:
  - Use the cd command without arguments:

```
$ cd
$ pwd
/home/oracle
```

Use the cd command with the absolute pathname to your home directory:

```
$ cd /export/home/oracle
or
$ cd ~
```

Note: "~" (tilde) is a shell metacharacter for one's own home directory.

#### Quiz

Q

When you use the cd command without options or arguments, the current working directory changes to your home directory.

- a. True
- b. False



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#### Viewing File Contents

- There are several commands that display the content of a text file in read-only format.
- The file-viewing commands include the following:
  - cat (short for concatenate) can be used to concatenate several files into a single file.
     However, its most common usage is to display the contents of relatively small text files.
  - more is used to display (but not change) the contents of a text file one screen or page at a time.
  - less (sometimes called "GNU Less") is much more robust than the legacy more command. less is used to display, navigate, and search (but not change) the text files' contents, displaying one screen or page at a time.
  - tail displays lines of text at the end of the text file.
  - head displays lines of text at the beginning of the text file.
  - wc (word count) counts newlines, words, bytes, and characters in a text file.
  - diff displays the <u>differences between two text files</u>.



## Viewing File Content: cat Command

The cat command is most commonly used to display the content of text files.

```
$ cat [options] ... [filename]
```

Use the cat command to display the contents of the dante text file.

```
$ cat dante
The Life and Times of Dante
by Dante Pocai
Mention "Alighieri" and few may know about whom you are talking.
Say "Dante," instead, and the whole world knows whom you mean.
...(output truncated)
```

For more information about cat command options, see the cat man page.

**Note:** Before you attempt to open a file by using the cat command, it is recommended that you first run the file command to determine the file type.

## Viewing File Content: more Command

The more command displays the content of a text file one screen at a time.

```
$ more [options] filename
```

- The --More-- (n%) message appears at the bottom of each screen, where n% is the percentage of the file that has been displayed.
- When the entire file has been displayed, the shell prompt appears.
- For more information about more command options, see the more man page.

#### Viewing File Content: more Command

When the --More-- (n%) prompt appears at the bottom of the screen, you can use the keys described in the table to scroll through the file.

<b>Keyboard Command</b>	Action
Space bar	Displays the next screen or page of the file you are viewing
Return / Enter	Displays the next line of the file you are viewing
b	Moves back one full screen
/pattern	Searches forward for a pattern (regular expression)
n	Finds the next occurrence of a pattern after you have used /pattern
N	Changes the direction of the search
h	Provides a description of all scrolling capabilities
q	Quits the man page and returns to the shell prompt



#### Viewing File Content: less Command

The GNU Project created less as a response to more, but with more features and actions. The table in the previous slide details not only more options but *some* of the less options also. For a more thorough list of features, entering less -? will yield greater details.

The following is a snippet from the less man pages:

```
SYNOPSIS

less -?
less --help
less -V
less --version
less [-[+]aABcCdeEfFgGiIJKLmMnNqQrRsSuUVwWX~]
    [-b space] [-h lines] [-j line] [-k keyfile]
    [-{oO} logfile] [-p pattern] [-P prompt] [-t tag]
    [-T tagsfile] [-x tab,...] [-y lines] [-[z] lines]
...(output truncated)
```

For more information about less command options, see the less man page.

# Viewing File Content: head Command

The head command displays the first 10 lines of a file.

```
$ head [-n] filename
```

- You can change the number of lines displayed by using the -n option.
- To display the first five lines of the /usr/dict/words file in Solaris, enter the head command with the -n option set to 5.

```
$ head -5 /usr/dict/words
10th
1st
2nd
3rd
4th
```

**Note**: In Linux, the directory file pathname is /usr/share/dict/words.

#### Viewing File Content: tail Command

The tail command displays the last 10 lines of a file.

```
$ tail [options] filename
```

- You can change the number of lines displayed by using the -n or +n option.
  - The ¬n option displays n lines from the end of the file.
  - The +n option displays the file from line n to the end of the file.
- Possibly one of the more popular options is  $-\pm$ , which allows you to *follow* the data that is being appended to the end of the file.
- For more information about tail command options, see the tail man page.

## Viewing File Content: wc Command

The wc (word count) command displays the number of lines, words, and characters contained in a file.

```
$ wc [options] filename
```

You can use the following options with the wc command.

Option	Description
-1	Line count
-w	Word count
-c	Byte count
-m	Character count

## Viewing File Content Differences: diff Command

The diff command displays the differences between two ASCII text files.

```
$ diff [options] filename1 filename2
```

- When the output of the diff command is displayed, the lines that are unique to filename1 are identified by the < (less than) symbol, while lines that are unique to filename2 are identified by the > (greater than) symbol. Lines that are identical in both files are not displayed.
- For more information about diff command options, see the diff man page.

#### Quiz



The default number of lines displayed by the head command is:

- a. 5
- **b**. 10
- **c.** 15
- **d**. 20



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#### Copying Files and Directories

The cp command copies single or multiple files and directories.

\$ cp [options] source(s) target/destination, where source(s) can be multiple files(s) and target/destination can be a single file or directory.

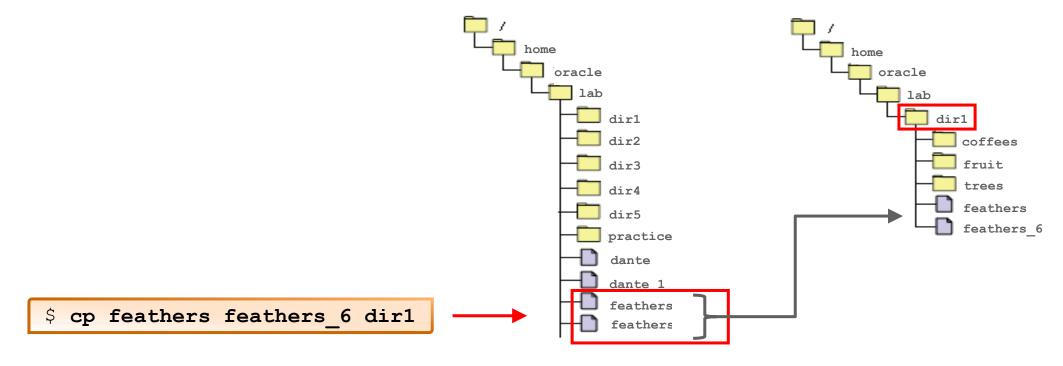
- To copy a filename to a newfilename in the same directory, use the cp command with the name of the source file and the target file.

```
$ cp filename newfilename
```

For more information about cp command options, see the cp man page.

# Copying Multiple Files

- To copy multiple files to a different directory, use the cp command with multiple file
  names for the source and a single directory name for the target.
- The following graphic represents copying the feathers and feathers\_6 files to the
  dir1 subdirectory.



# Copying Files: cp Command Options

You can use the cp command with options and modify the functions of the command.

Option	Description
-i	Prevents you from accidentally overwriting existing files or directories
-r (Oracle Solaris) -R (Oracle Linux)	Recursive, includes the contents of a directory, and the contents of all subdirectories, when you copy a directory



## Copying Files Recursively: -r or -R Option

- The -r or -R option recursively copies a directory.
- If the target directory does not exist, the cp -r command creates a new directory with that name.
- If the target directory exists, the cp-r command creates a new subdirectory with that name, below the destination directory.
- The sources option is one or more directory names. The target option is a single directory name.

#### Preventing Copy Overrides: -i Option

- The -i option prevents existing files from being overwritten with new files.
- When using the -i option, the system prompts for a  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{N}$  response from you before overwriting existing files.
- When copying the feathers file to the feathers 6 file, the overwrite prompt appears:

```
$ cp -i feathers feathers_6
cp: overwrite 'feathers_6'? y
```

# Moving and Renaming Files and Directories

• The  $m_{\rm V}$  command helps to move and rename files and directories within the directory hierarchy.

\$ mv [options] source(s) target/destination, where source(s) is the current filename or directory and target/destination is the new filename or directory.

- The my command does not affect the content of the files or directories being moved or renamed.
- The moved/renamed file maintains its original inode number.
- For more information about my command options, see the my man page.

Caution: mv is a destructive command if not used with the correct options.

# Moving a File to Another Directory

Use the mv command to move the brands file from the coffees directory to the /home/oracle directory.

```
$ cd ~lab/dir1/coffees
$ pwd
/home/oracle/lab/dir1/coffees
$ ls
beans brands nuts
$ mv brands ~
$ ls
beans nuts
$ cd
$ pwd
/home/oracle
$ ls -l brands
-rw-r--r-- 1 oracle oracle 0 Feb 6 2017 brands
```

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#### Moving a Directory and Its Content

- You can also use the my command to move a directory and its content to a different directory.
- Use the mv command to move the practice directory and its content to a new directory named letters.

#### Renaming Files and Directories

- The my command is also used for renaming existing files and directories.
- Use the my command to rename the dante file dantenew in the current directory.

#### Quiz

In your home directory, you created a directory called newdir as a placeholder for a variety of files. You notice that the directory now contains monthly reports. What would be the proper syntax to rename the newdir directory monthly reports? (Note: You are not in

- a.mv ~/newdir ~/monthly reports
- b. mv newdir monthly reports
- c. mkdir ~/monthly reports

your home directory.)



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### **Creating Files**

The touch command creates a new empty file.

```
$ touch [options] filename
```

- You can create multiple files with the same command.
- You can also use the touch command to create.hiddenfilenames.
- If the file name or directory name already exists, the touch command updates the
  modification time and access time to the current date and time.
- You can use absolute or relative pathnames on the command line when creating new files.
- For more information about touch command options, see the touch man page.

# **Creating Directories**

The mkdir command creates new directories.

```
$ mkdir [options] directory_name
and
$ mkdir -p directory_name
```

- Include the ¬p option if the directory name includes a pathname, and the intermediate directories will also be created.
- You can use absolute or relative pathnames on the command line when creating new directories.
- For more information about mkdir command options, see the mkdir man page.

# **Creating Directories**

Create a new directory, named Reports, in the /home/oracle directory:

```
$ cd ~/lab
$ pwd
/home/oracle/lab
$ mkdir Reports
$ ls -ld Reports
drwxr-xr-x 2 oracle oracle 512 Feb 6 19:02 Reports
```

Create a Weekly directory in the Reports directory:

```
$ mkdir Reports/Weekly
$ ls Reports
Weekly
```

#### Removing Files

You can permanently remove files from the directory hierarchy by using the rm command.

```
$ rm [options] filename
```

- The rm command is a destructive command.
- The following table describes some of the options that you can use with the rm command when removing files and directories.

Option	Description
-r or -R	Recursive, includes the contents of a directory and the contents of all subdirectories when you remove a directory
-i	Prevents the accidental removal of existing files or directories by prompting for a 'yes' or a 'no'
-f,force	Forces the removal of existing files and directories (the opposite of –i) without prompting

For more information about rm command options, see the rm man page.



### Removing Files

Remove the file named projection from the letters directory:

```
$ cd ~/lab/letters
$ ls
mailbox project projection research results
$ rm projection
$ ls
mailbox project research results
```

Using -i, remove the contents of a directory:

```
$ cd ~/lab
$ rm -i file*
rm: remove regular file 'file1'? y
rm: remove regular file 'file2'? y
rm: remove regular file 'file3'? y
$ ls
```

#### Removing Directories

 You can use the rm command with the -r option to remove directories that contain files and subdirectories.

```
$ rm [options] directory
```

Remove the letters directory and its content by using the rm -r command.

```
$ cd ~/lab
$ pwd
/home/oracle/lab
$ ls letters
mailbox results
$ rm -r letters
$ ls letters
ls: cannot access letters: No such file or directory
```

### Removing Empty Directories

The rmdir command removes empty directories.

```
$ rmdir directory
```

- If a directory is not **empty**, the rmdir command displays the following error message: rmdir: failed to remove "directory": Directory not empty
- To remove a directory that you are currently working in, you must first change to its parent directory (cd ..).

#### Types of Links: Symbolic and Hard

- A symbolic link (sometimes called a symlink or a soft link) is a pointer that contains the full pathname to another file or directory.
- Symbolic links can link files and directories located across different file systems. The symlink makes the file or directory easier to access if it has a long pathname.
- Symlinks become "broken" if the linked to file is removed.
- A symbolic link file is identified by the letter 1 in the file-type field. To view symbolic link files, use the 1s -1 command.
- A hard link shares the inode of another file and increases the link count of the linked to file.
- Hard links must be on the same file system and hard links persist even if the other file is removed.
- To view hard link files, use the ls -li command and compare inode numbers and link counts.

### Creating Symbolic Links

You can use the ln -s command to create a symbolic link file.

```
$ ln -s source target
```

- You can use either relative or absolute pathnames when creating a symbolic link for a file.
- The filename for the symbolic link appears in the directory in which it was created.
- For more information about both symbolic and hard links using the ln command, see the ln man page.

#### **Creating Symbolic Links**

• Use the ln -s command to create a symbolic link file named dante\_link to the dante file.

```
$ cd ~/lab
$ pwd
/home/oracle/lab
$ mv dante /var/tmp
$ ln -s /var/tmp/dante dante_link
```

• When using the ls -F command to display a list of files and directories, the symbolic links are identified with an @ symbol.

```
$ ls -F
Reports/ dir10/ feathers file1* fruit2
brands dir2/ feathers_6 file2* greetings
dante_1 dir3/ file.1* file3* myvars
dante_link@ dir4/ file.2* file4*
```

### **Creating Hard Links**

You can use the ln command to create a hard link file.

```
$ ln source target
```

- You can use either relative or absolute pathnames when creating a hard link for a file.
- The filename for the hard link appears in the directory in which it was created.
- For more information about both symbolic and hard links using the ln command, see the ln man page.

#### Removing Both Symbolic and Hard Links

- You can use the rm command to remove both symbolic link files and hard link files, just as you would remove a standard file.
- Remove the dante link symbolic link file by using the rm command.

```
$ ls -l dante_link
lrwxrwxrwx 1 oracle oracle ... dante_link -> /var/tmp/dante
$ rm dante_link
$ cat dante_link
cat: dante_link: No such file or directory
$ mv /var/tmp/dante dante
$ ls -l dante_link
ls: cannot access dante_link: No such file or directory
-rw-r--r- 1 oracle oracle 1319 Feb 6 14:18 dante
```

#### Quiz

Which command creates two new directories with the second directory as a subdirectory of the first?

```
a.mkdir -i dir dir2
```

- b. mkdir -p dir1/dir2
- c. mkdir -r dir1/dir2



### Quiz

The rm -r command removes nonempty directories.

- a. True
- b. False



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#### Regular Expressions

- Usually, when searching in UNIX and Linux, a simple text string is all you need.
   However, when the pattern is more complex, you need wild cards.
- Regular Expressions (sometimes called regex or regexp) is a way to build those wild card patterns.
- Virtually, any userspace program that performs searches uses regex\_patterns:
  - Example: grep, more, less, vi, vim, emacs, sed, awk, tcl, ls, find, Microsoft Office, and many more
- In addition, many languages, such as Perl, Java, PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor), Python, and Microsoft C and C++, use regex\_patterns.

#### Regular Expressions Wild Cards

#### Wild cards (metacharacters)

- \* Asterisk (glob) matches zero or more characters.
- Question mark matches zero or a single character.
- Period matches a single character.
- Caret at the beginning of the line
- S Dollar at the end of the line
- [ ] Brackets (a character class). The characters inside the brackets match one character position.
- ' Single quotation marks (apostrophe) tell the shell to ignore any enclosed metacharacters.
- " " Double quotation marks enclose a space.
- Backslash escapes the following metacharacter.



# Creating patterns Using Regular Expressions

The ls command lists all the files in the current directory.

```
$ ls
file1 file2 file23 file3 file32 file4 file45
```

• If you want to list only file2 and file4, you can build a regex\_pattern file[24] (also called a character class):

```
$ ls file[24]
file2 file4
```

• Another example: If you want all files that end in 2 numerals, but the last numeral has to be a 3; one pattern could be file[0-9][3]:

```
$ ls file[0-9][3]
file23
```

#### Searching Files and Directories

The find command searches for files that match the filename\_pattern, (could be a regex\_pattern) starting in the location specified by pathname.

```
$ find [pathname] -name filename_pattern
```

- The find command also searches for subdirectories recursively.
- When a file matches the filename\_pattern specified in the find command, its
  full directory path is printed.
- One can search by -name, -type of file, -perm permissions, -empty or -size,
   -group name, -user username, and many others.
- For more information about find command options, see the find man page.

# Searching Files and Directories: find Command

• Search for a file named myscript.htm in the current directory and any subdirectory.

```
$ find -name myscript.htm
```

 Search for any file named mypage beginning at the root directory (/) and all subdirectories from the root.

```
$ find / -name mypage
```

To find all the files that start with mess located in the /var directory, add an asterisk (\*)
or glob.

```
$ find /var -name mess*
```

#### Using expressions with the find Command

• After the find command has found the files that you were searching for, often you may want to do something with those files. That's where expression comes in.

```
$ find [pathname] [expression]
```

- An expression could be the following:
  - Instead of getting only the full-directory-path for the files which were found, you may want to execute an ls -l to get a long listing of the found files.
  - Alternatively, you want to cp or mv the files.
  - The expression syntax can take many forms. You will explore two: the -exec and -ok that requires y or Y acknowledgment.

```
$ find [pathname] <what you're searching for> -exec <command> {} \;
```

To get a long listing of the files found by find matching the filename\_pattern file\*:

```
$ find /opt -name file* -exec ls -l {} \;
```

# Searching Files and Directories: Linux Also Has a locate Command

To search using locate:

```
$ locate [options] regex_pattern
```

• Search for any file named myscript.htm:

```
$ locate myscript.htm
```

• The locate command works much like the grep command (covered in the following slides), to locate any files that contain the pattern "mess\*".

```
$ locate mess*
```

For more information about locate command options, see the locate man page.

# Searching Within Files: grep Command

• The grep (global regular expression print) command allows you to search for a specified pattern in one or more files, printing any lines that contain the specified pattern.

```
$ grep [options] regex_pattern [files(s)]
```

 To search for the occurrence of "first" in a file called "Hello," enter the following command:

```
$ grep first Hello
This is my first file in vim Editor
```

For more information about grep command options, see the grep man page.

### Searching Within Files: grep Command on Linux

- Sometimes it is useful to be able to highlight what was being searched for. The grep command on Linux has an option --color, which highlights the searched item in red in the output.
- To use the previous example, to search for the occurrence of "first" in a file called "Hello" highlighting what was found:

```
$ grep first --color Hello
This is my first file in vim Editor
```

#### Quiz



#### Which of the following copy commands results in an error message?

- a.cp directory1 directory2
- b. cp -r directory1 directory2
- c.cp -ri directory1 directory2



### Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Determine your location in the directory structure
- View file content
- Copy and move files and directories
- Create and remove files and directories
- Search for files and directories



#### Practice 3: Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- 3-1: Accessing files and directories
- 3-2: Using file and directory commands
- 3-3: Locating files and text

