**Chapter 4 GUIDED EXERCISE**

**Guided Exercise: Using the pinfo Command**

In this lab, you will browse GNU Info documentation using command-line tools.

**Outcomes.**

Understand program documentation in the GNU Info node system.

Perform the following steps on servera unless directed otherwise.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

Log in to workstation as student using student as the password.

On workstation, run the **lab help-info start** command.

[student@workstation ~]$ **lab help-info start**

1. Invoke **pinfo** without arguments.

**pinfo**

2. Navigate to the Common options topic.

Use **UpArrow** or **DownArrow** until (coreutils) Common options is highlighted. Press

**Enter** to view this topic.

3. Browse through this **info** topic. Can long-style options can be abbreviated?

1. Use **PageUp** and **PageDown** to navigate through the topic. When you found the answer, press **CTRL+Z**. This will suspend the current info application and return to the prompt. When finished, type **fg <ENTER>** to return to the info application.
2. Create a file named step3.txt in the /home/student/ directory that contains your answer as a single yes or no word.

[student@servera ~]$ **echo** *yes* **> /home/student/step3.txt**

[student@servera ~]$ **cat /home/student/step3.txt**

*answer*

[student@servera ~]$

4. Determine what the symbols -- signify when used as a command argument.

The symbols -- signify the end of command *options* and the start of command *arguments* in complex commands where the shell's command-line parser might not correctly make the distinction.

5. Without exiting **pinfo**, move up to the GNU Coreutils node.

Press **u** to move up to the top node of the topic.

6. Move up again, to the top topic.

Press **u** again. Observe that when positioned at the top of a topic node, moving up returns to the directory of topics. Alternately, pressing **d** from any level or topic will move directly to the directory of topics.

7. Search for the pattern nano and select that topic.

Press key **/** followed by the search pattern “nano”. With the topic highlighted, press **Enter**.

1. Create a file named step7.txt in the /home/student/ directory that contains the correct key and syntax to search for the word “nano” inside of **pinfo**. [**Note:** This is good to know because it’s the same as the syntax to search inside man pages and the **vi** text editor.]
2. When you found the answer, press **CTRL+Z**. This will suspend the current info application and return to the prompt. When finished, type **fg <ENTER>** to return to the info application.

[student@servera ~]$ **echo /nano > /home/student/step7.txt**

[student@servera ~]$ **cat /home/student/step7.txt**

*key-string*

[student@servera ~]$

8. Press u until you are at the top of the document. Select Coreutils: (coreutils). Core GNU (file, text, shell) utilities. Locate and select Output of entire files: Browse the topic.

Press **Enter** to select Output of entire files:, then **DownArrow** and **Enter** to select the topics.

9. Move up to return to the top page, then move to Editors.

Press **u** to move up to then top page. Use **DownArrow** to highlight and select **(nano)**. The new location will be nano's topic 1 Introduction. Now press **n**. You will have moved to nano's topic 2 **Invoking**.

10. Exit **pinfo**.

1. Move up (**u**) until at the top of the document, then read the paragraph that describes how to quit **pinfo**.
2. Create a file named step10.txt in the /home/student/ directory that contains single key or character needed to quit **pinfo**. Quit **pinfo**.

[student@servera ~]$ **echo** *q* **> /home/student/step10.txt**

[student@servera ~]$ **cat /home/student/step10.txt**

*answer*

[student@servera ~]$

Quit **pinfo**.

11. Invoke **pinfo** again, specifying nano as the destination topic from the command line.

[student@servera ~]$ **pinfo nano**

[student@servera ~]$

1. Select the Editor Basics topic.

Press **DownArrow** to highlight Editor Basics, then press **Enter** to select this topic.

1. Read the Entering Text and Special Functions subtopics.

Use arrow keys to highlight a topic, **PageUp** and **PageDown** to browse the text, then press **u** to move up one level. Press **q** to quit **pinfo** when you are finished.

1. Create a file named step11.txt in the /home/student/ directory that contains the **pinfo** command to view information about the **cat** command.

[student@servera ~]$ **echo 'pinfo** *command***' > /home/student/step11.txt**

[student@servera ~]$ **cat /home/student/step11.txt**

pinfo cat

[student@servera ~]$

**12. Evaluation**

On workstation, run the **lab help-info grade** script to complete this exercise.

[student@workstation ~]$ **lab help-info grade**

**13. Finish**

On workstation, run **lab help-info finish** to complete this exercise. This script deletes the user accounts and files created at the start of the exercise to ensure that the environment is clean.

[student@workstation ~]$ **lab help-info finish**

This concludes the guided exercise.