Grep commands

search for a string in one or more files

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grep 'fred' /etc/passwd # search for lines containing 'fred' in /etc/passwd

grep fred /etc/passwd # quotes usually not when you don't use regex patterns

grep null \*.scala # search multiple files

case-insensitive

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grep -i joe users.txt # find joe, Joe, JOe, JOE, etc.

regular expressions

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grep '^fred' /etc/passwd # find 'fred', but only at the start of a line

grep '[FG]oo' \* # find Foo or Goo in all files in the current dir

grep '[0-9][0-9][0-9]' \* # find all lines in all files in the current dir with three numbers in a row

display matching filenames, not lines

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grep -l StartInterval \*.plist # show all filenames containing the string 'StartInterval'

grep -il StartInterval \*.plist # same thing, case-insensitive

show matching line numbers

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grep -n we gettysburg-address.txt # show line numbers as well as the matching lines

lines before and after grep match

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grep -B5 "the living" gettysburg-address.txt # show all matches, and five lines before each match

grep -A10 "the living" gettysburg-address.txt # show all matches, and ten lines after each match

grep -B5 -A5 "the living" gettysburg-address.txt # five lines before and ten lines after

reverse the meaning

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grep -v fred /etc/passwd # find any line \*not\* containing 'fred'

grep -vi fred /etc/passwd # same thing, case-insensitive

grep in a pipeline

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ps auxwww | grep httpd # all processes containing 'httpd'

ps auxwww | grep -i java # all processes containing 'java', ignoring case

ls -al | grep '^d' # list all dirs in the current dir

search for multiple patterns

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egrep 'apple|banana|orange' \* # search for multiple patterns, all files in currentdir

egrep -i 'apple|banana|orange' \* # same thing, case-insensitive

egrep 'score|nation|liberty|equal' gettysburg-address.txt # all lines matching multiple patterns

locate -i calendar | grep Users | egrep -vi 'twiki|gif|shtml|drupal-7|java|PNG' # oh yeah

(see http://alvinalexander.com/linux-unix/linux-egrep-multiple-regular-expressions-regex)

multiple search strings, multiple filename patterns

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grep -li "jtable" $(find . -name "\*.java,v" -exec grep -li "prevayl" {} \;) # find all files named "\*.java,v" containing both

# 'prevayl' and 'jtable'

grep + find

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find . -type f -exec grep -il 'foo' {} \; # print all filenames of files under current dir containing 'foo', case-insensitive

recursive grep search

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grep -rl 'null' . # similar to the previous find command; does a recursive search

grep -ril 'null' /home/al/sarah /var/www # search multiple dirs

egrep -ril 'aja|alvin' . # multiple patterns, recursive

grep gzip files

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zgrep foo myfile.gz # all lines containing the pattern 'foo'

zgrep 'GET /blog' access\_log.gz # all lines containing 'GET /blog'

zgrep 'GET /blog' access\_log.gz | more # same thing, case-insensitive