

Checking the Difference

You can check the difference between the content of two files with the **diff** command.

```
$ diff first_file second_file
```

This will print out all of the differences between the first and the second file. There will also be a short instructions on how you can make the first file look like the second one.

d means delete this line from the first file. Which line you need to delete will be shown by a line number before the letter. **c** means change the line from the first file with one from the second file.

a means append this line to the first file.

These lines that the commands are referring to will be shown under them. If the line starts with **<** that means that it belongs to the first file. The **>** will prepend the lines that belong to the second file.

There is also a **c** option, which is the context mode. This mode will print out some range of lines from both files. Lines that start with **+** will need to be added to the first file. **-** lines will need to be removed.

There are also the **!** lines which need to be changed to the appropriate **!** line from the second file.

u option enables the unified mode. It looks similar to the context mode, but it's showing both of the files connected in one range of lines.