Practical No. 2

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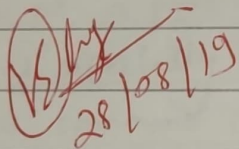
Roll NO. :- 2171944

Batch :- 2nd

Year :- 3rd

Sub :- 05

Date :- 21/8/19

Sign :- [signature] 28/08/19

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* **Aim :** Browse manual pages or Documentation : MAN, Apropos, whatis

* **Theory :**

   As you know, each unix/Linux distro comes with a massive set of manual pages - helpful manuals for using pretty much every standard command found in your operating system.

   Quite often you don't know the command though, but sometimes you know that what it should do. In such a scenario, apropos & what is commands may come in handy.

* **Using whatis command :** This command is used when you want to confirm what a particular Linux command does. It searches man pages, but focuses specially on command names, rather than their description.

   whatis command in Unox is used to get a one-line manual page description. In Linux, each manual page has some sort of description within it. So it searches manual pages names & show their description of specified filename/argument.

options :

what is -d : This option prints the debugging information

what is -v : This option will prints verbose worning message.

what is - r : This option interprets each of the name as a regular expressions.

what is -w : This option interprets each name as a . pattern contains shell style wildcards.

what is - L : This option does not trim output to the terminal width.

what is -s : This option will going to search only given manual selection.

- Using Apropos command : Apropos command is useful when you don't remember the command but may have a few keywords describing its functionality. Linux comes with a huge number of commands and thus it become quite difficult sometimes to remember each & every command apropos command becomes useful in such cases.

It searches the linux man page with the help of the keyword provided by the user to find the command & its functionality.

Syntax:

apropos [option..] KEYWORD..

for eg: suppose you don't know how to compress a file then you could type the following command in terminal & it will show all the related commands & its short description/functionality.

After executing the command you will observe a bunch of commands on the terminal that deals with not only how to compress a file but also how to expand a compressed file, search a compressed file, comparing a compressed file etc.

Man command in Linux: man command in linux is used to display the user manual of any command that we can run on the terminal. It provides a detailed view of the command which includes : NAME, SYNOPSIS, DESCRIPTION, OPTION, EXIT STATUS, RETURN VALUES, ERRORS, FILES, VERSIONS, EXAMPLES, AUTHORS, & SEE ALSO.

- Every manual is divided into the following sections:
Executable programs or shell commands.
- system calls (functions provided by the kernel)

- Library calls (functions within program libraries)
- Games
- Special files (usually found in /dev)
- file formats and conventions) eg. groff (7)
- system administration commands (usually only for root)
- kernel routines [Non-standard]

- Syntax:

    $ man [OPTION]... [COMMAND NAME]...

- Here is one option as well as Example for man command.

1. No option: It displays the whole manual of the command.

- Syntax:

    $ man [COMMAND NAME]

- Use of the man command:

             In linux most programs and many
    protocols, functions & file formats have accompanying manuals.
    with the 'man' command you can retaive information in manual
    & display it as text output on your screen. To use the man
    command, at the linux prompt, enter:
         man topic

Replace topic with name of the manual item about which you want more information. For example, to find out more about the FTP command, at the linux prompt, enter:

man ftp

Conclusion : Thus we had studied to Browse manual pages or Documentation : MAN, apropos and whatis.

28/08/19