AWK & SED Cheat Sheet

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AWK – Text Processing & Pattern Scanning

AWK extracts, filters, and transforms data from text files.

Key Concepts:

- Each row = a line
- Each column = a field ($1, $2, $3…)

AWK Variables:

- $0 : Entire line
- $1,$2,$3 : Fields
- NF : Number of fields
- NR : Line number
- FS : Input Field Separator
- OFS : Output Field Separator

Syntax:

```
awk 'pattern { action }' filename
```

Examples (students.txt):

```
John 85
Anita 90
Rahul 70
Megha 95
```

1. Print first column:

```
awk '{print $1}' students.txt
```

2. Print second column:

```
awk '{print $2}' students.txt
```

3. Print names scoring above 80:

```
awk '$2 > 80 {print $1}' students.txt
```

4. Print line number + line:

```
awk '{print NR, $0}' students.txt
```

5. Print lines matching condition:

```
awk '$1 == "Rahul"' students.txt
```

6. NF – Number of fields:

awk '{print $0, "=> Fields:", NF}'

7. NR – Line number:

awk '{print "Line:", NR, "-", $0}'

FS – Field Separator

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data.txt:

Alice,24,Developer

Bob,30,Tester

Split by comma:

awk -F "," '{print $1, $3}' data.txt

Split passwd by colon:

awk -F ":" '{print $1, $6}' /etc/passwd

OFS – Output Field Separator

Default:

Alice 24

Set OFS to dash:

awk 'BEGIN{OFS="-"} {print $1, $2}' data.txt

Output: Alice-24

Set OFS to comma:

awk 'BEGIN{OFS=","} {print $1, $2}' data.txt

Output: Alice,24

SED – Stream Editor

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SED modifies files using search, replace, delete, insert, append.

Syntax:

sed 'command' filename

file.txt:

apple

banana

grape

banana

mango

1. Replace first occurrence:

sed 's/banana/orange/' file.txt

2. Replace all occurrences:

sed 's/banana/orange/g' file.txt

3. Delete line 3:

sed '3d' file.txt

4. Delete lines containing word:

sed '/banana/d' file.txt

5. Print only matching lines:

sed -n '/grape/p' file.txt

6. Insert line BEFORE pattern:

sed '/banana/i FRUIT LIST'

7. Append line AFTER pattern:

sed '/banana/a This is yellow fruit'

8. Replace only on line 2:

sed '2s/banana/orange/' file.txt

9. Delete range (2 to 4):

sed '2,4d' file.txt

10. In■place replace:

sed -i 's/banana/orange/g' file.txt