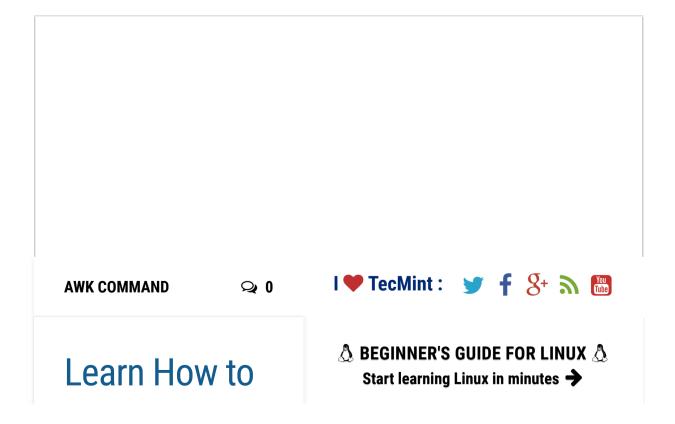
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# Built-in Variables – Part 10

by Aaron Kili | Published: July 25, 2016 | Last Updated: July 25, 2016

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As we uncover **SHARE** the section of Awk features, in this part of the series, we 34 shall walk through the concept of built-in LEAVE A variables in **REPLY** Awk. There are two types of variables you can use in Awk, these are; user-defined

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covered in Part
8 and built-in

variables.



Awk Built in Variables

Examples

#### **Built-in**

variables have values already defined in Awk, but we can also carefully alter those values, the built-in variables

■ FILENAME

include:

: current

input file

name( do

not

change

variable

name)

■ [FR]:

number of

 $\bigstar$ 

Q

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(that is

input line

1, 2, 3...

so on, do

not

change

variable

name)

NF

number of

fields in

current

input line

(do not

change

variable

name)

OFS :

output

field

separator

**FS**: input

field

separator

ORS

output

record

separator

RS : input record

separator

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et This Bo

to illustrate the

the Awk

built-in

variables

above:

To read the filename of the current input file, you can

use the

FILENAME

built-in

variable as

follows:

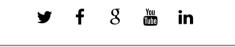
\$ awk ' { p

Awk FILENAME

Variable

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illename is

printed out for

each input line,

that is the

default

behavior of

Awk when you

USE FILENAME

built-in

variable.

Using NR to

count the

number of

lines (records)

in an input file,

remember

that, it also

counts the

empty lines, as

we shall see in

the example

below.

When we view

the file

domains.txt

using cat

command, it

contains 14

lines with text

and ampty 2

\$ cat ~/dom

Print Contents of File

\$ awk ' END

Awk Count Number of Lines

To count the number of fields in a record or line, we use the NR built-in variable as follows:

\$ cat ~/nam

List File Contents

\$ awk '{ pr

Awk Count Number of Fields in File

Next, you can also specify an input field separator using the FS

Lating the

built-in

variable, it

defines how

Awk divides

input lines into

fields.

The default value for **FS** is **space** and **tab**,

but we can

any character that will instruct Awk to divide input lines accordingly.

There are two methods to do this:

one method is to use theFS built-in

variable

and the second is to invoke the -F Awk

option

Consider the

file

/etc/passwd

on a Linux

system, the

fields in this

file are divided

using the :

character, so

we can specify

it as th60 Commands of Linux : A Guide from Newbies to System Adminis

separator

when we want

to filter out

certain fields

as in the

following

examples:

We can use

the -F option

as follows:

\$ awk -F':'

Awk Filter Fields in

Password File

Optionally, we

can also take

advantage of

the **FS** built-in

variable as

below:

\$ awk ' BEG

Filter Fields in File

Using Awk

To specify an output field

separator, use

the **ofs** 

built-in

variable, it

defines how

the output

fields will be

separated

using the

character we

use as in the

example

below:

\$ awk -F':'

Add Separator to

Field in File

we nave explored the idea of using Awk built-in variables which come with predefined values. But we can also change these values, though, it is not recommended to do so unless you know what you are doing, with adequate understanding. After this, we shall progress to cover how we can use shell variables in Awk command operations,

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therefore, stay

connected to

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