

File Inspection: Takeaways

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Syntax

- Seeing the first 15 rows of `filename` : `head -n 15 filename` .
- Seeing the last 15 rows of `filename` : `tail -n 15 filename` .
- Counting number of lines, words, and characters in `filename` : `wc filename` .
- Pretty printing a CSV file: `column -s"," -t filename` .
- Extract a sample of five rows from `filename` : `shuf -n 5 filename` .
- Determining the type of `filename` : `file filename` .

Concepts

- Text files are a ubiquitous way of sharing data.
- An **option-argument** is an argument that is passed to an option.
- We can escape spaces in filenames by quoting them.
- Unix-like systems do not use file extensions and instead determine a file's type heuristically.

Resources

- [List of file types](#)
- [POSIX standards on the `file` command](#)
- [Working with Magic Numbers in Linux](#)

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