

# **Comparing Files**

## Module 16

# Overview

- In this module:
- Comparing Files – `cmp`
- Getting Differences between Files – `diff`
- Getting Commonalities across Files – `comm`

# Compare Two Files - **cmp**

- cmp**

- Compare files byte-by-byte

- \$ **cmp file1 file2**

- Useful when files are data or other binary (non-text) format

# Get Differences between Files – diff

- diff

- Very powerful

- Show differences between files

- \$ diff file1 file2

- diff -b

- Ignore blanks in comparisons (and diff -B ignores blank lines)

- diff -i

- Ignore case

# Using diff on Directories

- `diff dir1 dir2`
- Shows differences between two directories
  - Including files added/removed/modified
  - Doesn't list subdirectory differences
- `diff -r dir1 dir2`
- Recursive
  - Lists all differences in directories and files

# Finding Common Lines – comm

- comm

- List lines that are common, and lines that are unique, in two files

- \$ comm file1 file2

- Files must be **sorted** first

- Displays 3 columns:

1. lines unique to file 1

2. lines unique to file 2

3. lines common to both

# Finding Common Lines – comm

- comm Options

- comm -1

- Supress column 1, etc

- Examples

- comm -13 file1 file2

- Show just additions to file2

- comm -12 file1 file2

- Show only lines present in both