

# **Viewing Files**

## Module 7

# Overview

- In this module:
- Displaying files – cat, more and less
- Determining File Contents with the ‘file’ command
- Identifying problem characters with ‘od’ and ‘cat’
- Counting Words - wc

# Display Files - cat

- Show file on screen
- `cat file1`
- Can display many files
- `cat file1 file2 file3 ...`

# Display Files – more

- Show file a page-at-a-time

- `more file1 file2 file3 ...`

- `<space>` Show next page

- `<return>` Show next line

- `^D` Move down a half-page

- `b` back a page

- `q` quit

- `h` help

# Display Files - less

- An enhanced 'more'
- Better support for moving backward through files
- Efficient in paging large files
- Remember, "less is more"

# Determine File Contents - file

- Educated guess at what a file contains
- file file1 file2 file3 ...
- Uses some 'magic' (in /usr/share/misc/magic) to identify file contents

# Display problem characters with 'od' and 'cat'

- Some files contain unprintable characters
- To display with 'cat'
- `cat -v file`
- Shows control characters as (eg) `^H`

# Display problem characters with 'od' and 'cat' (2)

- To dump output
  - ... as octal
    - od file
  - ... as hex
    - od -t h file
  - ... showing characters
    - od -t a file



# Word Count – wc

- Count lines, words and characters in a file
- wc file
- Count just lines
- wc -l file
- Count just words
- wc -w file
- Count just characters
- wc -c file