Greybeard's Guide to *NIX

or, how I learned to love the command line

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https://github.com/roggenkamps/GreybeardsGuide

13 Sep 2017



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- Resource constrained systems
 - Embedded systems
 - High performance systems
- It can do a lot for you

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 - Pipes to connect commands
 - Man pages for documentation
 - Regular expressions for text processing
 - find to query file systems
 - Command substitution
- Solve a practical problem with just a line or two of code

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The Shell, a must have

- Parses your input and executes commands, think REPL
- Provides an environment in which you work
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- ash, bash, dash
- Bourne shell, Korn shell, PD Korn, Bourne-again shell
- ocsh, tcsh, zsh
- Busybox (which normally uses ash)
- Each provides unique set of capabilities
- Today's talk focuses on Bourne-again shell, aka, bash
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Starting a shell

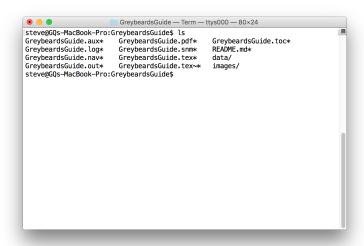
- Start a terminal in a GUI environment
- Remotely execute a shell via ssh
- Log into a system console

Sample session start



Now what?? Coder's Block!!!

Session - list current directory



ls lists the contents of a directory

Shell - file redirection

```
data — skro232@skro232: ~ — ttys003 — 80×12

[steve$ echo Hello world! >hello.txt
[steve$ echo "A second line" >> hello.txt
Hello world!
A second line
[steve$ cat < hello.txt
Hello world!
A second line
steve$ cat < hello.txt
Hello world!
Steve$ cat < hello.txt
```

- redirects a program's standard output to a file
- >> appends a program's standard output to a file
- < redirects a file to a program's standard input

Shell - executing scripts

```
data — skro232@skro232: ~ — ttys003 — 80×26
steve$ echo 'ls -l' > cmd1.txt
steve$ . cmd1.txt
total 16
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff 6 Sep 13 13:51 cmd1.txt
-rw-r--r 1 steve staff 27 Sep 13 08:28 hello.txt
steve$ cat cmd1.txt
1s -1
[steve$ echo '#!/bin/bash' > cmd2.txt
steve$ echo 'ls -l' >> cmd2.txt
steve$ cat cmd2.txt
#!/bin/bash
ls -l
steve$ . cmd2.txt
total 24
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff 6 Sep 13 13:51 cmd1.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff 18 Sep 13 13:52 cmd2.txt
-rw-r--r- 1 steve staff 27 Sep 13 08:28 hello.txt
steve$ ./cmd2.txt
-bash: ./cmd2.txt: Permission denied
steve$ chmod +x cmd2.txt
steve$ ./cmd2.txt
total 24
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff 6 Sep 13 13:51 cmd1.txt
-rwxr-xr-x 1 steve staff 18 Sep 13 13:52 cmd2.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff 27 Sep 13 08:28 hello.txt
steve$
```

Shell - filename patterns



- *NIX does not respect "filename extensions"
- 'cmd.txt' matches a file named 'cmd.txt'
- ? matches a single character
- * matches any numbers of characters

Shell - filename patterns, cont.

```
data - skro232@skro232: ~ - ttys003 - 80×12
steve$ ls cmd[1-9]*
cmd1.txt
                                 cmd3.sh
                cmd2.txt
steve$ ls cmd[1-2]*
cmd1.txt
                cmd2.txt
steve$ ls cmd[12]*
                cmd2.txt
cmd1.txt
steve$ ls cmd[13]*
cmd1.txt
                cmd3.sh
steve$ ls cmd[13]????
cmd1.txt
steve$
```

- [xy]matches characters 'x' and 'y'
- [x-z]matches characters between 'x' and 'z' inclusive

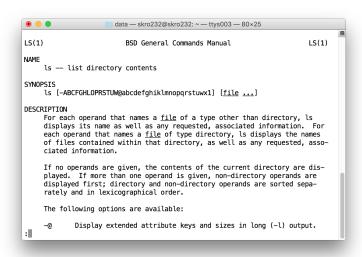
Pipes - Composing programs

- Pipes feed the output from a program to the input of another program
- Allow us to string programs together for "one-of" programs
- Very efficient
 - Creates one process per program
 - File buffer between programs
 - Signals and scheduler coordinate writing and reading data between programs - no extra files needed

Pipe examples

```
data - skro232@skro232: ~ - ttys003 - 80×24
steve$ ls -l /usr/bin | wc -l
   1055
steve$ ls -l /usr/bin | sort -nr -k 5 | head -5
             1 root
                     wheel
                            11951776 Jun 23 07:13 emacs*
-r-xr-xr-x
                           10606096 Jun 23 07:13 php*
-rwxr-xr-x
            1 root
                     wheel
                            5637248 May 5 2016 parl5.18*
-r-xr-xr-x
            1 root
                     wheel
            1 root
                     wheel
                             5477088 May 5
                                             2016 parl5.16*
-r-xr-xr-x
                     wheel
                             3201184 Jul 8
                                             2016 emacs-undumped*
-rwxr-xr-x
           1 root
steve$ ls -l /usr/bin | sort -nr -k 5 | grep May | head -5
            1 root
                      wheel
                              5637248 May 5
                                             2016 parl5.18*
-r-xr-xr-x
            1 root
                     wheel
                             5477088 May 5
                                             2016 parl5.16*
-r-xr-xr-x
                     wheel
                             2242256 May 5
                                             2016 db_printlog*
-r-xr-xr-x
           1 root
-r-xr-xr-x
            1 root
                     wheel
                             2195504 May 5
                                             2016 db codegen*
                                             2016 db load*
            1 root
                     wheel
                             2192016 May 5
-r-xr-xr-x
steve$ ls -l /usr/bin | sort -nr -k 5 | grep 2015 | head -5
-rwxr-xr-x
            1 root
                      wheel
                              162321 Aug 1
                                             2015 afmtodit*
-r-xr-xr-x
            1 root
                      wheel
                               82203 Aug 2
                                             2015 tkpp5.18*
            1 root
                     wheel
                                80592 Aug 6
                                             2015 gen_bridge_metadata*
-r-xr-xr-x
-r-xr-xr-x
            1 root
                     wheel
                               78220 Aug 2
                                             2015 tkpp5.16*
                                             2015 h2xs5.18*
-rwxr-xr-x
            1 root
                     wheel
                               60725 Aug 11
steve$
```

What to type for a given command



man command provides the manual page for command



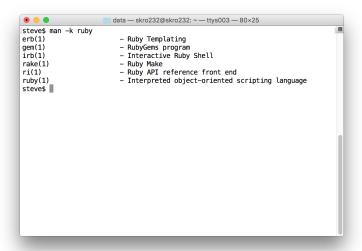
Man pages

- man pages contain multiple sections
- Typical sections include:
 - NAME name of the command and brief discussion
 - SYNOPSIS how to invoke the command and list of arguments
 - DESCRIPTION detailed description of the program
 - OPTIONS options and their description
 - EXAMPLES example invocations and what they do
 - EXIT STATUS exit (2) codes (0 indicates success)
 - ENVIRONMENT how shell variables affect program
 - SEE ALSO other programs or documents to consult
 - BUGS known issues

Man pages - cont.

- UNIX documentation system
- Organized into multiple sections
 - 1 programs or shell commands
 - 2 System (kernel) calls
 - 3 Library calls
 - 4 Special files (usually found in /dev)
 - 5 File formats
 - 6 Games
 - 7 Miscellaneous
 - 8 System administration commands (root)
 - 9 Non-standard kernel commands

Man pages - How to find commands with 'man -k'



Regular expressions - searching text

- Regular expressions allow you to search using string patterns
- Many programs in *NIX use regular expressions
- Most characters match themselves, 'abc' matches the string "abc"
- Meta characters:
 - ^ matches the beginning of a line
 - \$ matches the end of a line
 - . matches a single character
 - ? matches zero or one of the preceding pattern
 - * matches zero or more of the preceding pattern
 - + matches zero or more of the preceding pattern
 - [and] indicate the start and end of a character class
 - (and) indicate the start and end of an atom
- \ escapes meta characters: \\$ matches \$

Regular expressions - examples

- /abc/ matches "abc"
- /[a-z]/ matches a lower case character
- /[a-z][A-Za-z0-9_]+/ matches identifiers in many languages
- /^[0-9]+\$/ matches a line containing only a single integer
- /^a.*z\$/ matches a line starting with 'a' and ending with 'z'

Regular expressions - grep

- grep (Global Regular Expression Print) is the standard search program
- grep -i PATTERN FILES ignores case
- grep -1 PATTERN FILES prints just the FILES containing PATTERN
- grep -f RE_FILE FILES reads regular expressions, one per line, from RE_FILE

find - Query your file system

- find traverses a file system performing an action on each file it matches
- It provides many filters to fine tune a query:
 - file name pattern
 - file types (regular file, directories, links)
 - file properties (create time, modification time, etc.)
 - owner, group
 - number of links
 - and more
- Default action is print the name of the file

find - Example

```
ibisite - skro232@skro232: ~ - ttys003 - 80×24
steve$ find . -name '*rb' | xargs grep -li menu
./app/controllers/menus_controller.rb
./app/helpers/menus helper.rb
./app/models/menu.rb
./app/views/layouts/_header.html.erb
./app/views/menus/ form.html.erb
./app/views/menus/ new menu.html.erb
./app/views/menus/ new sub menu.html.erb
./app/views/menus/add_menu.js.erb
./app/views/menus/add sub menu.js.erb
./app/views/menus/destrov.is.erb
./app/views/menus/edit.html.erb
./app/views/menus/index.html.erb
./app/views/menus/new.html.erb
./app/views/menus/show.html.erb
./config/initializers/authorization.rb
./config/routes.rb
./db/migrate/20160825183810 create menus.rb
./db/schema.rb
./db/seeds prev.rb
steve$
```

find - Example using sed to filter

```
ibisite - skro232@skro232: ~ - ttys003 - 80×25
steve$ find . -name '*rb' | sed -e '/app.views/d' | xargs grep -li menu
./app/controllers/menus_controller.rb
./app/helpers/menus helper.rb
/app/models/menu.rb
./config/initializers/authorization.rb
./config/routes.rb
./db/migrate/20160825183810 create menus.rb
./db/schema.rb
./db/seeds_prev.rb
steve$
```

Command substitution - use the shell to write your commands

• \$ (pipe) executes pipe and substitutes the text in place

Command substitution - cont

```
ibisite - skro232@skro232: ~ - ttvs003 - 80×25
steve$ echo ls -l $(find . -name '*rb' | sed -e '/app.views/d' | xargs grep -li 📙
menu)
ls -l ./app/controllers/menus controller.rb ./app/helpers/menus helper.rb ./app/
models/menu.rb ./config/initializers/authorization.rb ./config/routes.rb ./db/mi
grate/20160825183810_create_menus.rb ./db/schema.rb ./db/seeds_prev.rb
steve$
steve$
steve$ ls -l $(find . -name '*rb' | sed -e '/app.views/d' | xargs grep -li menu)
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff
                            2481 Sep 16 2016 ./app/controllers/menus controlle
r.rh
-rw-r--r--
           1 steve staff
                             623 Sep 6 2016 ./app/helpers/menus_helper.rb
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff
                            120 Sep 6 2016 ./app/models/menu.rb
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff
                             853 Aug 29 14:50 ./config/initializers/authorizati
on, rb
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff
                            2143 Sep 12 10:38 ./config/routes.rb
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff
                             246 Sep 6 2016 ./db/migrate/20160825183810 creat
e menus.rb
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff 11751 Sep 6 13:18 ./db/schema.rb
-rw-r--r 1 steve staff 2391 Sep 12 16:57 ./db/seeds prev.rb
steve$
```

Command substitution - cont

```
ibisite - skro232@skro232: ~ - ttys003 - 80×25
steve$ ls -l $(find . -name '*rb' | sed -e '/app.views/d' | xargs grep -li menu)]■
| sort -nr -k 5 | head -4
-rw-r--r-- 1 steve staff 11751 Sep 6 13:18 ./db/schema.rb
-rw-r-- 1 steve staff 2481 Sep 16 2016 /app/controllers/menus controlle
r.rb
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```

- awk The AWK text processing language
- file describe the type of a file
- grep find strings in files
- less display a file a screen at a time
- 1s list files
- sed Stream editor
- sort Sort lines of a file
- uniq Filters out repeated lines in sorted files
- wc Counts characters, words and lines of a file
- xargs used with find to execute a command on multiple files

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Example problem - Solve NPR Sunday puzzle

From NPR Weekend Edition Sunday, Sept 4, 2016.

Next week's challenge, from listener Norm Baird of Toledo, Wash.: If you squish the small letters "r" and "n" too closely together, they look like an "m." Think of a common five-letter word with the consecutive letters "r" and "n" that becomes its own opposite if you change them to an "m."

About 840 people solved this puzzle.

Let's use our Ancient and Decrepit Tools to solve it in just two lines of code.

```
data - skro232@skro232; ~ - ttvs003 - 80×25
steve$ egrep '^....$' /usr/share/dict/words | wc -l
   10230
steve = qrep '^..... ' /usr/share/dict/words | sed -n -e 's/\(.*\)rn\(.*\)/^\1m\
2\$/p' > regexp
steve$ head -2 regexp
^acom$
^adom$
steves grep -f regexp /usr/share/dict/words | sed -e 's/\(.*\)m(.*\)/1rn^2 ->
\1m\2/'
churn -> chum
herne -> heme
horny -> homy
learn -> leam
morne -> mome
scarn -> scam
sharn -> sham
starn -> stam
stern -> stem
sworn -> swom
[steve$ wc -l regexp
      59 regexp
steves |
```

Answer: STERN and STEM

Covered why you might want to use the command line

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