Executing Commands with sed



Andrew Mallett

@theurbanpenguin | www.theurbanpenguin.com

Danny's Required to Archive Old Catalogs

Old DIY'r'Us catalogs are listed in text file

Currently Danny reads the file and archives the Catalog

Danny needs to automate this

sed's/^/ls -l /e listoffiles.txt

Making full use of the ever useful sed **substitute** command coupled with **execute**, we can read arguments from the input file. We then substitute the start of the line with the **command to be run** against the argument…let me show you

Archiving DIY'r'Us Catalogs

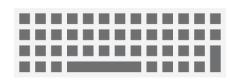
Require a leading forward slash

Append matching line to TAR file

File will contain catalogs to archive

```
$ sed ' /^\// s/^/tar -rf catalog.tar /e' cat.list
$ sed ' /^\// s/^/rm -f /e' cat.list
```

The original catalog is deleted



Demo Time: Archiving DIY'r'US catalogs

```
<ESC>
```

: 2,10 s/^/ /

Bonus Slide: Adding indents to code using vim

While we look at replacing the start of the line /^/

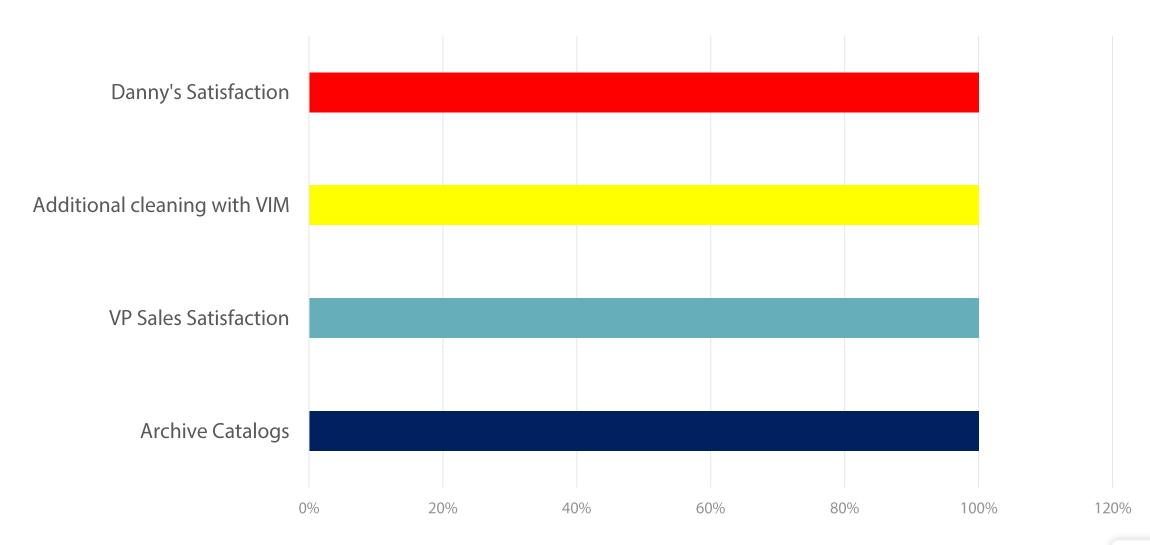
Within vim we can **indent** code that has not already been indented correctly

Here we indent lines 2 through to 10 with 4 spaces



Demo Time: Want to take a look at VIM?

Summary of Danny's Performance



Sometimes sed is not Enough

grep was good

sed, most satisfactory

but neither is enough

not for Danny

When awk is awesome

