

# Get help in the command line

## Scenario

In this scenario, you have to find more information about commands that you need to use. You also need to discover which command to use to perform a certain task.

## Task 1. Learn more about commands.

1.1. Commands you can use in the shell to learn more about the functionality of other commands.

**Command:** `whatis cat`

```
analyst@d33eae782223:~$ whatis cat
cat (1)                - concatenate files and print on the standard output
analyst@d33eae782223:~$
```

The `whatis` command is used to display a short description of a Unix/Linux command. When you run the command `whatis cat`, it will provide a brief explanation of the "cat" command.

1.2. To know more details about `cat` and all of its options

**Command:** `man cat`

```

analyst@d33eae782223:~$ man cat
CAT(1)
User Co

NAME
    cat - concatenate files and print on the standard output

SYNOPSIS
    cat [OPTION]... [FILE]...

DESCRIPTION
    Concatenate FILE(s) to standard output.

    With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

    -A, --show-all
        equivalent to -vET

    -b, --number-nonblank
        number nonempty output lines, overrides -n

    -e
        equivalent to -vE

    -E, --show-ends
        display $ at end of each line

    -n, --number
        number all output lines

    -s, --squeeze-blank
        suppress repeated empty output lines

    -t
        equivalent to -vT

    -T, --show-tabs
        display TAB characters as ^I

    -u
        (ignored)

    -v, --show-nonprinting
        use ^ and M- notation, except for LFD and TAB

    --help display this help and exit

    --version
        output version information and exit

EXAMPLES

```

The command "man cat" is used to access the manual page for the "cat" command in Unix-like operating systems. "cat" stands for "concatenate," and it is used to display the contents of one or more text files in the terminal.

1.3. Command that prints just the first part of a file, but you can't remember the exact command.

**Command: apropos -a first part file**

```

analyst@d33eae782223:~$ apropos -a first part file
head (1) - output the first part of files
analyst@d33eae782223:~$ █

```

The **apropos** command is used to search the system's manual pages (man pages) for keywords or phrases related to a specific topic. The **-a** flag is used to display all matches for the specified keywords, and the command you provided seems to be searching for manual pages related to the keyword "first", the keyword "part", and the keyword "file".

## Task 2. Explore the useradd command.

2.1. Command to get help on the useradd command and learn more about all of its options.

Command: **man useradd**

```
analyst@d33eae782223:~$ man useradd
USERADD(8)                                     System Management Commands      USERADD(8)

NAME
    useradd - create a new user or update default new user information

SYNOPSIS
    useradd [options] LOGIN

    useradd -D

    useradd -D [options]

DESCRIPTION
    useradd is a low level utility for adding users. On Debian, administrators should usually use adduser(8) instead.

    When invoked without the -D option, the useradd command creates a new user account using the values specified on the command line plus the default values from the system. Depending on command line options, the useradd command will update system files and may also create the new user's home directory and copy initial files.

    By default, a group will also be created for the new user (see -g, -N, -U, and USERGROUPS_ENAB).

OPTIONS
    The options which apply to the useradd command are:

    -b, --base-dir BASE_DIR
        The default base directory for the system if -d HOME_DIR is not specified. BASE_DIR is concatenated with the account name to define the home directory. If the -m option is not used, BASE_DIR must exist.

        If this option is not specified, useradd will use the base directory specified by the HOME variable in /etc/default/useradd, or /home by default.

    -c, --comment COMMENT
        Any text string. It is generally a short description of the login, and is currently used as the field for the user's full name.

    -d, --home-dir HOME_DIR
        The new user will be created using HOME_DIR as the value for the user's login directory. The default is to append the LOGIN name to BASE_DIR and use that as the login directory name. The directory HOME_DIR does not have to exist but will not be created if it is missing.

    -D, --defaults
        See below, the subsection "Changing the default values".

    -e, --expiredate EXPIRE_DATE
        The date on which the user account will be disabled. The date is specified in the format YYYY-MM-DD.

        If not specified, useradd will use the default expiry date specified by the EXPIRE variable in /etc/default/useradd, or an empty string (no expiry) by default.

    -f, --inactive INACTIVE
        The number of days after a password expires until the account is permanently disabled. A value of 0 disables the account as soon as the password has expired, and a value of -1 disables the feature.
```

The **useradd** command is used in Unix-like operating systems to add a new user account. It is used to create a new user and specify various user-related settings. To access the manual (documentation) for the **useradd** command, you can use the **man** command followed by the command name.

## Task 3. Explore the rm and rmdir commands.

3.1. Determine the difference between the rm and rmdir commands.

Command: **whatism rm**

```
analyst@d33eae782223:~$ whatism rm
rm (1)          - remove files or directories
analyst@d33eae782223:~$
```

Command: **whatism rmdir**

```
analyst@d33eae782223:~$ whatism rmdir
rmdir (1)       - remove empty directories
rmdir (2)       - delete a directory
analyst@d33eae782223:~$
```

## Task 4. Determine which command to use.

4.1. Identify a command that will do this by searching for it through keywords. In this case, use the keywords create new group.

Command: **apropos -a create new group**

```
analyst@d33eae782223:~$ apropos -a create new group
groupadd (8)    - create a new group
analyst@d33eae782223:~$
```

