**xargs**

xargs is a command on Unix and most Unix-like operating systems used to build and execute commands from standard input. It converts input from standard input into arguments to a command.

Some commands such as grep and awk can take input either as command-line arguments or from the standard input. However, others such as cp and echo can only take input as arguments, which is why xargs is necessary.

It reads data from standard input (stdin) and executes the command (supplied to it as an argument) one or more times based on the input read. Any blanks and spaces in the input are treated as delimiters, while blank lines are ignored.

If no command is supplied as an argument to xargs, the default command that the tool executes is echo.

# xargs Basic Example

When you type xargs without any argument, it will prompt you to enter the input through stdin after you type something, press ctrl+d, which will echo the string back to you on stdout as shown below.

$ xargs

Hi,

Welcome to TGS.Hi, Welcome to TGS.

# Delete Files that has White-space in the Filename

$ touch "The Geek Stuff.c"

$ ls

one.c one.h two.c two.h The Geek Stuff.c

$ find . -name "\*.c" | xargs rm -rf

$ ls

one.h two.h The Geek Stuff.c

In this situation, use the -print0 option with find command and -0 option with xargs command to delete files including those that has space in the filenames as shown below.

$ ls

one.c one.h two.c two.h The Geek Stuff.c

$ find . -name "\*.c" -print0 | xargs -0 rm -rf

$ ls

one.h two.h