

2.9 Files

As you study this section, answer the following questions:

- How can you display only the first few lines of a file?
- Why is **tail** used more often than **head**?
- How can you use **tail** to monitor a specified file while troubleshooting the system?
- What is the difference between **cp** and **mv**?

In this section, you will learn to:

- Create and view files from the command line.
- Use **cat**, **less**, **head**, and **tail** to view the contents of a text file.
- Delete and move files from one directory to another.
- Delete an existing directory including all subdirectories and files.

Key terms for this section include the following:

Term	Definition
cat	A shell command that displays the contents of a file.
more	A shell command that displays the contents of a file one screen at a time.
less	A shell command similar to more that displays the contents of a file one screen at a time and allows the user to navigate within the display.
head	A shell command that displays the first few lines of a file.
tail	A shell command that displays the last few lines of a file.
touch	A shell command normally used to create an empty file.
file	A shell command that displays the file's type (ASCII text, Python script, symbolic link, etc.).
rm	A shell command that deletes files and directories.
cp	A shell command that copies files.
mv	A shell command that moves and renames files and directories.
shred	A shell command that overwrites files so they are difficult for a third party to recover.
lsattr	A shell command that list the attributes of a file.

This section helps you prepare for the following certification exam objectives:

Exam	Objective
CompTIA Linux+	<p>2.3 Given a scenario, create, modify, and redirect files.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• File readers<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ cat◦ tail◦ head◦ less◦ more• File and directory operations<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ touch◦ mv◦ cp◦ rm
TestOut Linux Pro	<p>2.2 Manage the file system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• View information about directories and files in the file system• Create, copy, move, and delete files in the file system

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