

Notes 4: Wildcards and Brace Expansion

Each of the commands used for navigating the file system

*Wildcard

Definition

The main wildcard is a star, or asterisk (*) character.

Usage

*

Examples

- Display
 - `ls *.txt`

The ? Wildcard

Definition

The ? wildcard proves very useful when working with hidden files

Usage

??

Examples

- Display of wildcard ?
 - `ls .??*`

The [] Wildcard

Definition

The brackets wildcard use the exclamation mark to reverse the match

Usage

[]

Examples

- Display of [] Wildcard who's name has at least one number
 - `ls *[0-9]*`

- Display of [] using all files that have a range of letters after f
 - `ls f[a-z]*`
-

Brace Expansion

Definition

Brace expansion {} is not a wildcard but another feature of bash that allows you to generate arbitrary strings to use with commands

Usage

```
{ }
```

Examples

- Display using mkdir
 - `mkdir -p music/{jazz,rock}/{mp3files,videos,oggfiles}/new{1..3}`
- Display using touch
 - `touch website{1..5"}.html`