# Sed

sed ‘p’ /etc/passwd | tail

*Output*

\_hidd:\*:261:261:HID Service User:/var/db/hidd:/usr/bin/false

\_hidd:\*:261:261:HID Service User:/var/db/hidd:/usr/bin/false

\_cmiodalassistants:\*:262:262:CoreMedia IO Assistants User:/var/db/cmiodalassistants:/usr/bin/false

\_cmiodalassistants:\*:262:262:CoreMedia IO Assistants User:/var/db/cmiodalassistants:/usr/bin/false

\_analyticsd:\*:263:263:Analytics Daemon:/var/db/analyticsd:/usr/bin/false

\_analyticsd:\*:263:263:Analytics Daemon:/var/db/analyticsd:/usr/bin/false

\_fpsd:\*:265:265:FPS Daemon:/var/db/fpsd:/usr/bin/false

\_fpsd:\*:265:265:FPS Daemon:/var/db/fpsd:/usr/bin/false

\_timed:\*:266:266:Time Sync Daemon:/var/db/timed:/usr/bin/false

\_timed:\*:266:266:Time Sync Daemon:/var/db/timed:/usr/bin/false

The command outputs all the lines in /etc/passwd, but it prints it out twice. What the ‘p’ means is to print out all the patterns that matches — we didn’t give it any pattern yet, so it matched everything.

Sed goes through each line of the /etc/passwd file, and tries to find a match to the pattern (since we didn’t give it a pattern, it matched the whole line), so that gets printed. I mean, the pattern gets printed.

But why did we see an exact duplicate of the line being printed again? That’s because sed also prints the output to the screen. It prints both the pattern that was matched and the output.

To suppress the output, we can say

send -n ‘p’ /etc/passwd | tail

\_findmydevice:\*:254:254:Find My Device Daemon:/var/db/findmydevice:/usr/bin/false

\_datadetectors:\*:257:257:DataDetectors:/var/db/datadetectors:/usr/bin/false

\_captiveagent:\*:258:258:captiveagent:/var/empty:/usr/bin/false

\_ctkd:\*:259:259:ctkd Account:/var/empty:/usr/bin/false

\_applepay:\*:260:260:applepay Account:/var/db/applepay:/usr/bin/false

\_hidd:\*:261:261:HID Service User:/var/db/hidd:/usr/bin/false

\_cmiodalassistants:\*:262:262:CoreMedia IO Assistants User:/var/db/cmiodalassistants:/usr/bin/false

\_analyticsd:\*:263:263:Analytics Daemon:/var/db/analyticsd:/usr/bin/false

\_fpsd:\*:265:265:FPS Daemon:/var/db/fpsd:/usr/bin/false

\_timed:\*:266:266:Time Sync Daemon:/var/db/timed:/usr/bin/false

# Awk