

Statistics 243: *class notes*

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Topics

1. Shell Services

- 1.1 Redirection
- 1.2 Job Control
- 1.3 Path Names

1 Shell Services

We begin with some useful examples. The command

`head -12 filename`

will show you the first 12 lines of the file called *filename*. The command

`tail -14 filename`

will show you the last 14 lines of the file called *filename*. The command `grep` finds regular expressions in its input. For example,

`grep string filename`

displays those lines of *filename* containing occurrences of *string*.

1.1 Redirection

To use `grep` to find any errors in the output of *program*, we redirect the program's output, making it input to the `grep` command. To do this, run *program* as follows:

`program | grep -i error`

To learn about the kind of expressions `grep` will accept, check out the article on regular expressions on Phil Spector's web page.

Some more examples of redirection:

> & redirects both stderr and stdout to a file

> > & appends both to file

|& pipes both to a file

To separate stdout and stderr you could write

`(command > outfile) > & errorfile`

Once you direct stdout to *outfile*, all that's left is stderr which you can redirect into *errorfile*.

Suppose you want to execute a command on a bunch of files whose names are all listed in the file *filenames*. For example, suppose you want to copy all files in *filenames* to *someotherdirectory*. Use the ' character:

`cp 'cat filenames' someotherdirectory`

Another example:

`emacs 'ls -t | head -5'`

This opens emacs with 5 buffers containing the last 5 files.

1.2 Job Control

`ps` lists processes you've initiated in a given shell.

If you run command on some shell on machine bugaboo, then run `ps` in a different shell window on bugaboo, it won't show you the job command running on bugaboo.

`ps -af` will list all processes on bugaboo.

`ps -af | grep username` will list all processes on bugaboo which have been initiated by username.

If you run a job that will run for a while and that you will check periodically, you must remember on what machine you started the job.

In an interactive program

`C-c`

interrupts¹. Some programs don't listen to this so the next thing you could do is

`C-\`

which submits a quit signal. Many programs won't quit at optimal times since this is an order to quit immediately. The suspend signal

`C-z`

puts job in the background. To run any job in the background, put an `&` at the end of the command. This does not put output in background, so any output will still be printed to terminal screen. When you put a job in the background you should, almost invariably, redirect stdout. If you will remain at the terminal use `command > output &`

If you will leave the terminal, you have to also redirect stderr with

`command > & output &`

You could also redirect output to other shells. Type `tty` to find out what filename corresponds to a given shell, then redirect output to that filename. Remember not to kill the shell!

If a job is running for a while and you want to leave, use `C-z` and you get

`[2] command (stopped)`

Now type `bg` to get the job to start again in background. To get it back into the foreground type `fg`. If there are other jobs running, be more specific by typing `fg 2`, where 2 is the number of the job. Job numbers can be found by typing `jobs`.

If you logout and then want to kill your job, get back on machine on which job started. Type `ps -af | grep username`. Note the process id (pid), say 27531, then type `kill 27531`

Easiest way to check that it worked is to type it again

!!

If it's still running, you need something stronger. Try

`kill -9 27531`

If it still doesn't stop, it's a zombie, and the only way to stop it is to shut down the machine.

Miscellaneous note:

If you want a filename but don't really want a file you could use `/dev/null` and nothing happens.

1.3 Path Names

When Phil puts samples in the `s243` directory, it will be in the `ta's` directory. That is, `/class/g/s243/s243/samples`

If you want to copy file `test.c` from this directory you would write

`cp /clas/g/s243/s243/samples`

But it's a pain to do this every time, so we need some shortcuts.

`.` is the current directory

`..` is one level up

So from your home directory for the class account, you can type

`cp ../s243/samples/test.c`

¹Notation: `C-c` means that you must hold down the Control key and press the letter `c`

Another Example: What if you created a program in your home directory, but then do some clean up work and want to move it into it's own directory. Enter the following commands: `mkdir hw1`

`cd hw1`

`mv ../program.c`

Your home directory is denoted \sim , which is a shell service.