**Two commands that are similar in function are paste and join. paste doesn’t remove any data from the output, but join removes redundant key fields from the data.**

**For example, say you have the following files:**

**file1:  
Line one of file1  
Line two of file1  
file2:  
Line one of file2  
Line two of file2**

**Using paste on these two files produces the output:**

**Line one of file1       Line one of file2  
Line two of file1       Line two of file2**

**Notice that nothing is lost from the files. All the data is there, but this can be redundant in the extreme if you want to produce a joint file from two or more files.**

**The join command is more of a database join style than a catenation style (just paste one file’s contents after the other on the same line). It takes a file as the first argument and by default treats the first field of that file as a key field. The second and subsequent files are treated in the same fashion. The output is each matching line of the files in order, minus the redundant key fields from any but the first file.**

**For example, say you have the following files, users and location:**

**users:  
rbrunson:500:  
snuffy:501:  
quotaboy:502:  
  
location:  
rbrunson        123 anystreet   anytown ID      83858  
snuffy          123 circle loop chicago IL      88888  
quotaboy        123 some lane   anyburg MT      59023**

**As you can see, the output of these includes only the unique information from each file, leaving out the location key field:**

**join users location  
rbrunson:500:  123 anystreet   anytown ID      83858**

**snuffy:501:    123 circle loop chicago IL      88888**

**quotaboy:502:  123 some lane   anyburg MT      59023**