Create a File in Bash

Pick up the different ways to create files via terminal!

This chapter will give you a brief introduction about File Manipulation commands which you must know before moving on to Shell Programming. File Manipulation commands lets you perform necessary operations on your files through terminal. Some of the most powerful commands are given below:

touch

Definition:

`touch` command is considered one of the easiest ways to create new files because it does not overwrite the existing files unlike `cp`, `rm` etc. It is also used to change the timestamps of files. A timestamp can be of three types: Access Date & Time, Modification Date & Time and the Time & Date when meta information associated with file was changed. By default, the behavior of this command is set to create empty files only. You can use different options to change file's timestamp information.

Syntax:

```
touch [option] [file_name(s)]
```

Options:

Several options can be used together to simultaneously change the timestamp information associated to the file.

Option	Meaning

-am	A is for Access Time and M is for Modification Time. You can change both together by using this option
-r	Means *reference*. It makes a reference to another file’s timestamps and use them for your file
-B	Means *Back*. This options changes time by going a few seconds back, specified by the user
-F	Means *Forward*. This options changes time by going a few seconds forward, specified by the user
-d or -t	These two options are used if the user wants to add his/her own access time in a specific format

Example:

1. Create a file named “my_file”

`touch my_file`

```
echo "Current Directory Files:"
ls

touch my_file

echo "Updated Directory Files:"
ls
```

2. Change the Access Time of file named “my_file”. Here, `ls -lu` displays

the access time of all files.

`touch -a my_file`

```
echo "Current Directory Files:"
ls

touch -a my_file

echo "Updated Directory Files:"
ls
ls -lu
```

3. Change the Modification Time of the file name. Here, `ls -l` displays the modification time of all files:

`touch -m my_file`

```
echo "Current Directory Files:"
ls

touch -m my_file

echo "Updated Directory Files:"
ls
ls -l
```