

Hello! SED - Stream Editor

Stream Editor (SED) is an important text-processing utilities on GNU/Linux. It uses a simple programming language and is capable of solving complex text processing tasks with few lines of code. This easy, yet powerful utility makes GNU/Linux more interesting.

SED can be used in many different ways, such as:

- Text substitution,
- Selective printing of text files,
- In-a-place editing of text files,
- Non-interactive editing of text files, and many more.

This tutorial will give you **just enough** knowledge to read and understand this book, to be a master on the SED, GREP and Find command, you need to explore relevant literature referenced at end of this book.

Sed works as follows: it reads from the standard input, one line at a time. for each line, it executes a series of editing commands, then the line is written to **STDOUT**.

An example which shows how it works : we use the **s** sommand. **s** means “substitute” or search and replace. The format is

```
sed s/regular-expression/replacement text/{flags}
```

In the example below, we have used **g** as a flag, which means “replace all matches” (global replacement):

```
$ cat datafile.txt
I have a big data!

$ sed -e 's/big/small/g' -e 's/data/list/g' datafile.txt
```

```
I have a small list!
```

Let's try to learn what happened.

Step 1, sed read in the line of the file and executed

```
s/big/data/g
```

which produced the following text:

```
I have a small data!
```

Step 2, then the second replacement command (`'s/data/list/g'`) was performed on the edited line and the result was:

```
I have a small list!
```

Take it easy!