

We can run multiple commands in a single line using these “&”, “[”, “;” characters.

1. “&”-The ampersand: We can use it two different ways for two different reasons.
 - When used in the way “ping localhost & whoami”

In the following line there are two commands separated by &. The first one is ping localhost and second one is whoami. When two different commands are separated by “&”, second command won’t wait for the first command to finish.

```
(aeinsy@depressant)-[~]
$ ping -c 1 localhost & whoami
[1] 9352
aeinsy
PING localhost (::1) 56 data bytes
64 bytes from localhost (::1): icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.029 ms

--- localhost ping statistics ---
1 packets transmitted, 1 received, 0% packet loss, time 0ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.029/0.029/0.029/0.000 ms

[1] + done          ping -c 1 localhost
(aeinsy@depressant)-[~]
```

As we can see, whoami is executed before the ping is finished.

- When used in the way “ping -c 1 8.8.8.8 && traceroute 8.8.8.8”

When used in the way then its used as AND logical operator. In the command, traceroute only run if and only if ping is successful. We can sum up in the following way. Sometimes we need to know if the machine is on or off. If off then there is no need to run traceroute on it.

```
(aeinsy@depressant)-[~]
$ ping -c 1 8.8.8.8 && traceroute 8.8.8.8
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) 56(84) bytes of data.

--- 8.8.8.8 ping statistics ---
1 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 0ms

(aeinsy@depressant)-[~]
$ ping -c 1 8.8.8.8 && traceroute 8.8.8.8
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=1 ttl=58 time=23.5 ms

--- 8.8.8.8 ping statistics ---
1 packets transmitted, 1 received, 0% packet loss, time 0ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 23.459/23.459/23.459/0.000 ms
traceroute to 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8), 30 hops max, 60 byte packets
 1  192.168.0.1 (192.168.0.1)  13.069 ms  12.926 ms  12.852 ms
 2  172.16.40.1 (172.16.40.1)  114.375 ms *  113.986 ms
 3  10.21.10.217 (10.21.10.217)  15.528 ms *  15.272 ms
 4  10.1.3.129 (10.1.3.129)  15.152 ms  15.029 ms  14.847 ms
 5  172.31.6.37 (172.31.6.37)  14.655 ms  14.532 ms  14.405 ms
 6  142.251.195.126 (142.251.195.126)  31.369 ms  26.890 ms  27.089 ms
 7  * * *
 8  dns.google (8.8.8.8)  33.606 ms  31.099 ms  33.477 ms
```

As we can see, in the first command ping was not successful and traceroute didn’t run. But in second command ping was successful following it traceroute also ran.

2. “|”- Vertical bar: We can also use it two different ways.

- Single pipe: It is used to transfer one command output to another command. For example, if we use “ps aux | grep root“. “ps aux” command will list the all of running process with some details. One of the details contains user of each process and “grep root” will filter out the processes which are owned by root.

```
(aeinsy@depressant)-[~]
$ ps aux | grep root
root      1  0.2  0.2 22680 14308 ?        Ss   20:29   0:01 /sbin/init splash
root      2  0.0  0.0      0      0 ?        S    20:29   0:00 [kthreadd]
root      3  0.0  0.0      0      0 ?        S    20:29   0:00 [pool_workqueue_release]
root      4  0.0  0.0      0      0 ?        I<   20:29   0:00 [kworker/R-rcu_g]
root      5  0.0  0.0      0      0 ?        I<   20:29   0:00 [kworker/R-rcu_p]
root      6  0.0  0.0      0      0 ?        I<   20:29   0:00 [kworker/R-slub_]
root      7  0.0  0.0      0      0 ?        I<   20:29   0:00 [kworker/R-netns]
root      8  0.0  0.0      0      0 ?        I    20:29   0:00 [kworker/0:0-events]
```

- Double pipe: It is used as OR logical operator similar to “&&”. As “&&” will run the second command only if the first command executes successfully. The double pipe does the work in reverse way. It will run the second command only if the first one is failed to run.

```
(aeinsy@depressant)-[~]
$ ping -c 1 1.1.1.1 || echo "the machine is offline"
PING 1.1.1.1 (1.1.1.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 1.1.1.1: icmp_seq=1 ttl=56 time=9.33 ms

— 1.1.1.1 ping statistics —
1 packets transmitted, 1 received, 0% packet loss, time 0ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 9.333/9.333/9.333/0.000 ms

(aeinsy@depressant)-[~]
$ ping -c 1 1.2.3.4 || echo "the machine is offline"
PING 1.2.3.4 (1.2.3.4) 56(84) bytes of data.

— 1.2.3.4 ping statistics —
1 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 0ms

the machine is offline
```

In the first command ping was successful and echo is ignored. But in the second command ping was not successful, meaning the machine is not running hence executed the ping command.

3. “;”-Semicolon: It will separate two commands and run the command in the given sequence. The commands will run even if one is failed.

```
(aeinsy@depressant)-[~/Desktop/Python]
$ ls -al; whoami
total 24
drwxrwxr-x 2 aeinsy aeinsy 4096 Aug  4 02:47 .
drwxr-xr-x 5 aeinsy aeinsy 4096 Aug 11 01:55 ..
-rw-rw-r-- 1 aeinsy aeinsy  51 Aug  4 02:45 numbergen.py
-rw-rw-r-- 1 aeinsy aeinsy 12000 Aug  4 02:47 nums.txt
aeinsy
```