**Sort**

Ref:http://www.skorks.com/2010/05/sort-files-like-a-master-with-the-linux-sort-command-bash/

-------------

>> **ls -al | sort -nk5** --> sort the 5th colum(k5) and "n" means numerical.

>> **ps -ef | sort -rnk2** --> "r" reverse the sort. n - numerical . k2 - 2nd colum.

>> **sort files > files.sorted** --> sort actully does not change the file content. it just displays the sorted file. if you want to save the sorted file, you need to redirect the sorted view to anothe file.

>> sort -n numbers.txt --> sort the file based on numerical value.

>> Any blank character acts as a column separator for the sort program. This is default behaviour. But we can specify column separator with "t" flag.

>> "**k" flag tells the column number.**

>> **cat /etc/passwd | head | sort -t: -k1** --> we are sorting the /etc/passwd file based on the first column and we specified that : is the column separator.

>> sort -t. -k1,1n -k4,4n ips.txt --> (-k1,1n) it tells that sort by 1st column(k1) to 1st column(1n)-numerically. (-k4,4n): 4th column to 4th column numerically.

>> **sort file1 > file1 --> Never do this**. It will erase the file1. The shell assumes that, whatever may be the output of the command, first it needs to prepare the output file. in this case it is file1. If this file is already existed, it will be erased and if not new file will be created. so when you "cat file1" after the above sort command, nothing will be displayed. if you want to store a sorted file, execute the below command.

>> sort file1 > file2

mv file2 file1