
CSE 391

Lecture 2

Exploring Shell Commands, Streams, and Redirection

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Lecture summary

- Unix file system structure
- Commands for file manipulation, examination, searching
- Java compilation: using parameters, input, and streams
- Redirection and Pipes

Unix file system

directory	description
/	root directory that contains all others (drives do not have letters in Unix)
/bin	programs
/dev	hardware devices
/etc	system configuration files <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ /etc/passwd stores user info■ /etc/shadow stores passwords
/home	users' home directories
/media, /mnt, ...	drives and removable disks that have been "mounted" for use on this computer
/proc	currently running processes (programs)
/tmp, /var	temporary files
/usr	user-installed programs

File examination

command	description
cat	output a file's contents on the console
more or less	output a file's contents, one page at a time
head, tail	output the first or last few lines of a file
wc	count words, characters, and lines in a file

- Let's explore what we can do here...

Searching and sorting

command	description
grep	search a file for a given string (useful options: <code>-v</code> and <code>-i</code>)
sort	convert an input into a sorted output by lines
uniq	strip duplicate (adjacent) lines
find	search for files within a given directory
locate	search for files on the entire system
which	shows the complete path of a command
cut	extract a column of text from a file

- `grep` is actually a very powerful search tool; more later...
- *Exercise* : Display the contents of the text file `names.txt` in alphabetical order.

Shell History

- The shell remembers all the commands you've entered
- Can access them with the `history` command
- Can execute the most recent matching command with `!`
 - Ex: `!less` will search backwards until it finds a command that starts with `less`, and re-execute the entire command line
- Can execute also execute a command by number with `!`

```
165  19:36  ls
166  19:37  cat test.txt
167  19:38  pwd
168  19:40  history
```

Ex: `!166` will execute: `"cat test.txt"`

Programming

command	description
<code>javac <i>ClassName</i>.java</code>	compile a Java program
<code>java <i>ClassName</i></code>	run a Java program
<code>python, perl, ruby, gcc, sm1, ...</code>	compile or run programs in various other languages

- *Exercise* : Write/compile/run a program that prints "Hello, world!"

```
$ javac Hello.java
$ java Hello
Hello, world!
$
```

Programming

- Creating parameter input to programs
 - `String[] args` holds any provided parameters
 - *Exercise:* modify hello world to use parameters
- Parameters not the same as the input stream!
 - *Exercise:* modify hello world to also use a Scanner to grab input

Let's revisit the standard streams...

Streams in the Shell

- Stdin, stdout, stderr
 - These default to the console
 - Some commands that expect an input stream will thus read from the console if you don't tell it otherwise.
- *Example:* `grep hi`
 - What happens? Why?

We can change the default streams to something other than the console via redirection.

Output redirection

command > *filename*

- run *command* and write its output to *filename* instead of to console;
 - think of it like an arrow going from the command to the file...
 - if the file already exists, it will be overwritten (be careful)
- >> appends rather than overwriting, if the file already exists
- *command* > /dev/null suppresses the output of the command
- Example: `ls -l > myfiles.txt`
- Example: `java Foo >> Foo_output.txt`
- Example: `cat > somefile.txt` (writes console input to the file until you press ^D)
- *Exercise* : List the vegetables in `veggies.txt` in alphabetical order in the file `sortedVeggies.txt`.

Input redirection

command < *filename*

- run *command* and read its input from *filename* instead of console
 - whenever the program prompts the user to enter input (such as reading from a Scanner in Java), it will instead read the input from a file
 - some commands don't use this; they accept a file name as an argument
- again note that this affects *user input*, not *parameters*
- useful with commands that can process standard input or files:
 - e.g. `grep`, `more`, `head`, `tail`, `wc`, `sort`, `uniq`, `write`
- Example: `java Guess < input.txt`
- *Exercise* : run `HelloWorld` taking input from `names.txt`
- *Exercise* : run it again and write the output to `output.txt`

Combining commands

command1 | *command2*

- run *command1* and send its console output as input to *command2*
- very similar to the following sequence:
command1 > *filename*
command2 < *filename*
rm *filename*
- Examples: `grep Simpson names.txt | less`
`sort names.txt | uniq`
- *Exercise* : How many types of beans are listed in `veggies.txt`?

Misusing pipes and cat

- Why doesn't this work to compile all Java programs?

```
ls *.java | javac
```

- Misuse of cat

- bad: `cat input_filename | command`

- good: `command < input_filename`

- bad: `cat filename | more`

- good: `more filename`

- bad: `command | cat`

- good: `command`

Commands in sequence

command1 ; command2

- run ***command1*** and then ***command2*** afterward (they are not linked)

command1 && command2

- run ***command1***, and if it succeeds, runs ***command2*** afterward
- will not run ***command2*** if any error occurs during the running of 1
- Example: Make directory songs and move my files into it.
`mkdir songs && mv *.mp3 songs`

Links

command	description
<code>ln</code>	create a link to a file
<code>unlink</code>	remove a link to a file

- **hard link:** Two names for the same file.
\$ `ln orig other_name`
 - the above command links `other_name` as a duplicate name for `orig`
 - if one is modified, the other is too; follows file moves
- **soft (symbolic) link:** A reference to another existing file.
\$ `ln -s orig_filename nickname`
 - the above command creates a reference `nickname` to the file `orig_filename`
 - `nickname` can be used as though it were `orig_filename`
 - but if `nickname` is deleted, `orig_filename` will be unaffected

Keyboard shortcuts

^KEY means hold Ctrl and press **KEY**

key	description
Up arrow	repeat previous commands
^R <i>command name</i>	search through your history for a command
Home/End or ^A/^E	move to start/end of current line
"	quotes surround multi-word arguments and arguments containing special characters
*	"wildcard" , matches any files; can be used as a prefix, suffix, or partial name
Tab	auto-completes a partially typed file/command name
^C or ^\	terminates the currently running process
^D	end of input; used when a program is reading input from your keyboard and you are finished typing
^S	don't use this; hides all output until ^Q is pressed