

# This is Lab Worksheet 3 - not an Assignment

This Lab Worksheet contains some practical examples that will prepare you to complete your Assignments. You do **not** have to hand in this Lab Worksheet. Make sure you complete the separate Assignments on time. Quizzes and tests may refer to work done in this Lab Worksheet; save your answers.

## Before you get started - REMEMBER TO READ ALL THE WORDS

You must have an account on the Course Linux Server to do this lab. Log in to the server and use the shell. Review the Class Notes related to this worksheet as you work through it. Leave your work on the Linux server. Do not delete any work from the Linux server until the term is over and your marks are complete!

## Commands introduced and used in this Lab

- **cat** – display the contents of files without pagination (usually onto your screen)
- **clear** – to clear the screen of a terminal and put the cursor back at the top of the screen
- **cp** – copy one file to another, or copy one or more files into a directory
- **find** – to find pathnames (e.g. files or directories) by name, or by userid, or other criteria
- **fgrep** – search for text inside files and print the lines containing the text (see also **grep** and **egrep**)
- **history** – show all previous commands typed (saved in your `~/.bash_history` file)
- **less** (also **more**) – to page through a text file one screen-full at a time (better than **cat**)
- **man** – to get help for commands or system files or topics
- **mv** – move/rename pathnames, or move multiple pathnames into an existing directory
- **rm** – delete (remove) files (and entire directories of files **recursively**, with the **-r** option)
- **sleep** – do nothing (sleep) for some amount of time (pause a script)
- **touch** – to create an empty file and/or to update the file's date/time modified stamp

Log in to the Course Linux Server to do all commands in this lab. Set your bash **PS1** shell prompt to show your login name, computer name, and the **basename** of your current directory, just as you did in the previous Lab. **Leave your finished work on the server; do not delete it when you are finished the worksheet.**

## 1 Command: man - online help for commands and more

The **man** command, short for Manual Pages, displays the manual page for the specified command. Man pages, as they are commonly referred to, contain all of the pertinent information on the basic command concepts, how to use the command, the command structure, basic options available for the command and how to use them, advanced options (if any), and related topics, in that order. The **man** command syntax is:

- **man command**      # where **command** is the name of the command or thing you wish to learn about.

Examples: **man ls** ; **man man** ; **man passwd** ; **man group** ; **man hosts**

A text screen will show up with the information you requested - if it exists. You can then scroll up and down the man page using the **up** (↑) and **down** (↓) arrow keys and/or the **[PgUp]** and **[PgDn]** keys on your keyboard. You can also use the **spacebar** to scroll down one **screen**. Once you are done with the man page, simply type **q** for quit and you will exit the man page display. You can type **q** any time you want to exit the manual pages and you can type **h** or **?** for a **help** screen listing all the **other neat things** you can do while looking at this manual page. The most common thing to type is a **blank** (space), which displays the **next page** of the help file.

When you don't know the specific command for an operation, you can search the man page **titles** based on a keyword. (You can only search the title lines.) For this you need to specify the **-k** (keyword) option:

- **man -k keyword**      (multiple keywords will find more title lines for each word)

Example: **man -k games**      (lists all man page **title** lines that contain the word **games**)

## Command: clear

You can clear the text on a terminal by using the **clear** command, or by typing **^L (CTRL-L)** into the shell.

## 2 Command: touch

The **touch** command updates the “last modified” time/date stamps on one or more **existing** files. It can also be used to create one or more **new, empty files**. See the manual page for more features.

### Creating empty files and updating the modification time

Perform the following commands shown in **bold** type. Most commands will produce no output if they succeed.

**Set your shell prompt:** Before doing this lab, set your bash shell prompt to show your login name, the computer name, and the **basename** of your current working directory, as you did in the previous Lab.

```
[user@host ~]$ cd
[user@host ~]$ rm -rf lab3.2           (remove this directory and everything inside it)
      (The above command will make a “clean slate” if you choose to restart this section from the start.)
[user@host ~]$ mkdir lab3.2          (create a new, empty sub-directory)
[user@host ~]$ cd lab3.2             (make this the new current working directory)
[user@host lab3.2]$ touch cclock     (create a new, empty file)
[user@host lab3.2]$ ls -l cclock     (The option -l is lower-case letter L, not the digit 1)
```

a) Record **only** the **time/date** stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.2]$ sleep 60         (Waits for 60 seconds. Read a book or type ^C to interrupt.)
[user@host lab3.2]$ touch cclock     (update the time stamp on the existing file)
[user@host lab3.2]$ ls -l cclock     (the -l option is a letter, not a digit)
```

b) Record **only** the new **time/date** stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 Command: cp (copy)

The **cp** (Copy) command makes a copy of files or directories. The syntax for the **cp** command is:

➤ **cp [options] sources... destination**

where **sources...** is one or more files or directories and **destination** is either a file or a directory. If the destination is a directory, the file(s) will be copied into that directory using their **same names**. If you want to copy **directories**, you **must** use options such as **-r** or **-a**; otherwise, **cp** copies only source **files**.

```
[user@host ~]$ cd
[user@host ~]$ rm -rf lab3.3         (remove this directory and everything inside it)
[user@host ~]$ mkdir lab3.3         (create a new, empty sub-directory)
[user@host ~]$ cd lab3.3           (make this the new current working directory)
[user@host lab3.3]$ touch a b c     (create three new, empty files)
[user@host lab3.3]$ ls
```

a) Give the output of the last command, above: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ mkdir mydir
[user@host lab3.3]$ ls -F           (that is an UPPER CASE option letter)
```

b) Give the output of the last command, above: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ cp a b c mydir
[user@host lab3.3]$ ls mydir
```

c) Give the output of the last command, above: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ mkdir snack
[user@host lab3.3]$ touch snack/pie
[user@host lab3.3]$ cd snack
[user@host snack]$ touch apple
[user@host snack]$ cd ..
[user@host lab3.3]$ cp snack/pie snack/apple mydir
[user@host lab3.3]$ ls mydir
```

d) Give the output of the last command, above: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ mkdir A B C
```

*(these are UPPER CASE directory names)*

e) What **command line** could you use to verify that the **three** directories have been **created**?

\_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ touch A/foo B/bar C/empty
```

*(create three files)*

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ cp A B C mydir
```

*(try to copy A and B and C into mydir)*

f) Record **one** of the messages displayed on the screen: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ ls mydir
```

*(confirm that **no** directories were copied)*

g) Why were the three source **A, B, C** directories **not copied** into destination directory **mydir**?

\_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ cp -r A B C mydir
```

*(the copy succeeds using this option!)*

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ ls -R mydir
```

*(that is an UPPER CASE option letter)*

h) What **command line** could you use to see the **index number** and **date** of the **new copy** of file **empty**?

\_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ mkdir -p parent/child
```

*(remember what **-p** does?)*

```
[user@host lab3.3]$ cp -r parent mydir
```

*(remember what **-r** does?)*

i) Give the **absolute path** of the **new copy** of directory **child** after the above copy command creates it:

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4 Command: mv (move or rename)

The **mv** (Move or Rename) command moves (renames) files or directories. The renaming is very fast because the file data is *not* copied during a move/rename; only the *names* change (unless the move has to move the data to a different disk partition). Renaming is not a costly operation. The syntax for the **mv** command is:

➤ **mv [options] sources... destination**

where **sources...** is one or more files or directories and **destination** is either a file or a directory. If the destination is a **directory**, the source files or directories will be moved (renamed) into that directory using their **same names**. If the destination is a **file**, only **one** source file is allowed to be moved (renamed). Examples:

➤ **mv file1 newfilename1**  
 ➤ **mv directory1 newdirectoryname1**  
 ➤ **mv file1 directory/newfilename1**  
 ➤ **mv file1 file2 file3 directory**

Note that the destination must be an **existing directory name** if you are moving **more than one thing**, and you will get an **error message** if you try to move multiple things to a file name, e.g. **mv file1 file2 file3**

```
[user@host ~]$ cd
[user@host ~]$ rm -rf lab3.4           (remove this directory and everything inside it)
[user@host ~]$ mkdir lab3.4
[user@host ~]$ cd lab3.4
[user@host lab3.4]$ touch A           (create a single new, empty file)
[user@host lab3.4]$ ls -i            (note the index number of A)
[user@host lab3.4]$ cp A foo         (copy the file)
[user@host lab3.4]$ mv A bar         (move the file)
[user@host lab3.4]$ ls -i            (note the index numbers)
```

a) Looking at the index numbers: did moving file **A** to **bar** copy any data? \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.4]$ touch green blue orange   (create three new empty files)
[user@host lab3.4]$ mv green blue orange      (try to move/rename the files)
```

b) Record the error message: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.4]$ mkdir colours
[user@host lab3.4]$ mv green blue orange colours
```

c) Give the **absolute** path of the file **blue**: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.4]$ mkdir fans players arena   (three new directories)
[user@host lab3.4]$ touch fans/me players/you  (two new files inside two directories)
[user@host lab3.4]$ mv fans players arena      (move two directories into a third)
```

d) Give the new **absolute path** of the file named **you** after the above **mv** command has moved it:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Command: **rm** (remove or delete files, recursively remove directories)

The **rm** (Remove or Delete) command removes (deletes) **files**. If the **-r** option is specified, it recursively deletes **directories** and **all** their contents. Unlike DOS, Windows, or OSX, a file or directory that is deleted with the **rm** command is **gone** (is **not** saved in a Recycle Bin) and not easily recovered. The syntax for the **rm** command is:

➤ **rm** *[options]* *pathnames...*

Another useful option to **rm** is **-f** (force) that turns off any interactive prompts and most error messages. We have been using “**rm -rf**” to completely recursively remove lab directories at the start of each section.

**Note:** Most Unix/Linux shells let you type multiple commands on one line by separating them using the semi-colon character **;**. Type the **four** commands below, separated by **three** semi-colon characters:

```
[user@host ~]$ cd ; rm -rf lab3.5 ; mkdir lab3.5 ; cd lab3.5
```

The above line goes to your **HOME** directory, removes the current **lab3.5** directory (and everything inside it), then re-creates it and makes it your current working directory. You do this at the start of each section of your labs, so that you have a "clean" empty directory in which to work. Continue working:

```
[user@host lab3.5]$ mkdir sandbox sandbox/toybox           (create two directories)
[user@host lab3.5]$ touch toy1 toy2 toy3                   (create three empty files)
[user@host lab3.5]$ mv toy1 toy2 toy3 sandbox/toybox      (move all 3 files)
[user@host lab3.5]$ ls sandbox/toybox                     (you should see three toy files)
[user@host lab3.5]$ rmdir sandbox                          (try to remove the non-empty directory)
```

a) Record the error message: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.5]$ rmdir -p sandbox                       (try again to remove the non-empty directory)
```

b) Record the error message: \_\_\_\_\_

```
[user@host lab3.5]$ cp -a sandbox savebox                 (save a full copy of sandbox in savebox)
[user@host lab3.5]$ ls -R savebox                          (confirm that all sandbox has been copied to savebox)
[user@host lab3.5]$ rm -r sandbox                          (recursively delete sandbox and everything in it)
[user@host lab3.5]$ ls                                     (confirm that sandbox is gone)
[user@host lab3.5]$ mv savebox sandbox                     (what does this do?)
```

c) Give the **absolute path** of the file **toy2** after the above commands are finished:

```
[user@host lab3.5]$ cp -a sandbox/toybox sandbox          (recursive copy FAILS – why?)
```

d) Explain why the above copy fails: \_\_\_\_\_

The **-i** option to **rm** will turn on “**Interactive**” mode, where you are prompted about *every* file being deleted:

```
[user@host lab3.5]$ cp -a sandbox/toybox .                (note the DOT ending this command line)
[user@host lab3.5]$ ls toybox                              (you should see three toy files in here)
[user@host lab3.5]$ rm -ri toybox                          (answer yes to all the interactive questions)
```

## 6 Command: cat (catenate or show contents)

**cat** (Catenate, or Show) opens one or more files and catenates (shows) their contents. You can use it on any size file, but files are not be paginated and large files will scroll off your screen. Unlike **less**, **cat** won't warn you if you're about to **mess up** your terminal by displaying a **binary** format file. The syntax for **cat** is:

➤ **cat** [*options*] [*file\_list...*]

Try these examples using **cat** and **less**:

```
[user@host ~]$ cat /etc/issue.net                          (this contains the network login banner)
[user@host ~]$ cat /etc/resolv.conf                        (this contains the system DNS server IP addresses)
[user@host ~]$ cat /etc/issue.net /etc/resolv.conf /etc/issue.net
[user@host ~]$ cat /etc/services                          (many lines scroll off screen!)
[user@host ~]$ less /etc/services                          (use less to show files one page at a time)
[user@host ~]$ more /etc/services                          (a pagination program similar to less)
```

- What option to **cat** shows non-printing characters? \_\_\_\_\_
- What option to **cat** will number the output lines? \_\_\_\_\_
- What option to **cat** will suppress repeated empty output lines? \_\_\_\_\_
- "**cat**" backwards is "**tac**". What does the **tac** command do? \_\_\_\_\_  
Compare "**cat /etc/resolv.conf**" with "**tac /etc/resolv.conf**".

## 7 Command: fgrep - find lines containing text strings inside file(s)

A family of related programs – **grep**, **fgrep**, and **egrep** – open files and look for text inside the files. **grep** (Global Regular Expression Print) opens zero or more files and prints lines from those files that match a **Regular Expression pattern**. **egrep** searches for an **extended Regular Expression**. We will first learn to use the simpler **fgrep** program that searches for simple text strings, not patterns.

The **fgrep** command (**Fixed grep**) searches for **simple text strings**, not a **pattern**. Always use **fgrep** until you know how to use **Regular Expression** patterns. Using the **-e** option, you can search for lines containing any one of multiple text strings at the same time. The syntax for **fgrep** is:

- **fgrep** [options] 'literal\_string' [file\_list...]
- **fgrep** [options] -e 'string1' [-e 'string2']... [file\_list...]

Until you learn how to use **Regular Expression** patterns, always use the **fgrep** command that does not treat any characters specially. **fgrep** searches for exactly the text you enter. Try these examples using **fgrep**:

```
[user@host ~]$ fgrep 'abcd0001' /etc/passwd      (use your own userid and not abcd0001)
[user@host ~]$ fgrep '$' /etc/crontab          (must use fgrep due to special character)
[user@host ~]$ fgrep -e 'root:' -e 'games:' /etc/passwd      (find either string)
[user@host ~]$ history | fgrep 'date'          (look for the date command in your shell history)
[user@host ~]$ history | fgrep 'pwd'           (look for the pwd command in your shell history)
```

You can chain together **fgrep** commands using pipes to find lines that match **all** the text strings. (More on pipes in a later worksheet.) Using pipes, only lines that contain **all** the text strings will display:

```
[user@host ~]$ man man | fgrep 'italic'          (lines containing the text 'italic')
[user@host ~]$ man man | fgrep 'italic' | fgrep 'replace' (lines with both strings)
```

**All** the text strings must be present in each line found when you chain **fgrep** commands together with pipes:

```
[user@host ~]$ fgrep 'the' /etc/fstab           (should find and print at least one line)
[user@host ~]$ fgrep 'none' /etc/fstab         (should find and print at least one line)
[user@host ~]$ fgrep 'the' /etc/fstab | fgrep 'none'      (no output! Why?)
[user@host ~]$ fgrep 'the' /etc/fstab | fgrep 'print'     (outputs one line. Why?)
```

a) Why is there no output from the **third** command pipeline, above, searching for **'the'** and **'none'** ?

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b) What does the **-i** option mean to **fgrep**?

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c) What does the **-v** option mean to **fgrep**?

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d) What does the **-w** option mean to **fgrep**?

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## 8 Review exercise: **cd**, **mkdir**, **touch**, **mv**, **rm**, **cp**, **mkdir**, **find**

Enter exactly the commands that are shown in **bold** below and note which commands produce **errors**. (There will be **three** errors; this is intentional.) Answer the questions following based **only** on these **review** commands. The **tilde** characters below have the same meaning as in the previous lab. (Go look!) Be precise in your typing!

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>cd ; rm -rf ~/lab3.8</b>          | 9. <b>cp tomato lettuce garden</b>    |
| 2. <b>mkdir ~/lab3.8</b>                | 10. <b>mkdir jardin forest</b>        |
| 3. <b>cd ~/lab3.8</b>                   | 11. <b>mv lettuce cucumber jardin</b> |
| 4. <b>mkdir ./orchard</b>               | 12. <b>rmdir garden</b>               |
| 5. <b>touch apple orange</b>            | 13. <b>touch lab3</b>                 |
| 6. <b>mv orange orchard/lemon</b>       | 14. <b>cd orchard</b>                 |
| 7. <b>rm orange</b>                     | 15. <b>cd ../../lab3.8/forest</b>     |
| 8. <b>touch lettuce tomato cucumber</b> | 16. <b>mv ../lab3 ../tomato</b>       |

a) Give the command **number** that generated the error followed by the **full** and **exact** error message:

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b) What is the **absolute** path of the shell's current working directory after the **last** command (16), above?

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c) Give the **absolute pathname** of the one regular file **lemon** that is now in the directory named **orchard**:

---

d) Give the relative path to the same **lemon** file from the **forest** directory:

---

e) Give the relative path to the same **lemon** file from your own **HOME** directory:

---

f) Give the relative path to the same **lemon** file from the directory called **/home**:

---

g) Give the relative path to the same **lemon** file from the Linux ROOT directory:

---

h) Give the relative path to the same **lemon** file from the directory called **/root**:

---

i) List the **basenames** of **directories** that were successfully created (at any time) during the **review** exercise:

---



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j) List the **absolute pathnames** of all **directories** that were **successfully** deleted during the **review** exercise:

---



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k) List the **absolute pathnames** of the five **regular files** still remaining anywhere under the directory **lab3.8**. Do **not** include the names of any **directories** or sub-directories – list only the five absolute **regular** file names located **anywhere** under the review directory **lab3.8**:

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---

l) What command line recursively **finds** and displays **all** pathnames under **~/lab3.8** ?

---

- m) What does the **find** expression "**-ls**" do? (See "**man find**".)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- n) What does the **find** expression "**-type f**" do? (See "**man find**".)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- o) What does the **find** expression "**-size 100M**" do? (See "**man find**".)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- p) What does the **find** expression "**-size +100M**" do (note the plus sign)? (*Hint: Search the man page for the string "**numeric arguments**" which explains how numbers can be specified to **find**.*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- q) What command line recursively **finds** and displays only pathnames owned by userid **idallen** under the system directory **/var/games** ? (You should see at least one file.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- r) What command line recursively **finds** and displays only pathnames ending in "**log**" in the system directory **/etc** (you will see many **Permission denied** messages in the output, as well as pathnames)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- s) What command line recursively **finds** and displays only pathnames for things **bigger** than **500 Kilobytes** in the system directory **/etc** (you will see many **Permission denied** messages in the output)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- t) Are you keeping a **reference list** of the commands used in every lab, along with the **options** used and what they **mean**? **Future** labs and tests will **expect** you to **remember** these command names and options.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 9 Using shell command line history (similar to DOS doskey)

Purpose	Command Line Example
Show all your command history	<b>\$ history   less</b>
Re-execute any previous command	<b>\$ !n</b> ( <i>the <b>n</b> is the number shown by <b>history</b></i> )
Re-execute any previous command	Use the <b>Up</b> and <b>Down</b> arrow keys, then push <b>[Enter]</b>
Re-execute the last command	<b>\$ !!</b>
Re-execute last command starting with foo	<b>\$ !foo</b>
Show (print) command but do not execute	<b>\$ !foo:p</b>
Re-use first argument from previous command	<b>\$ echo !^ ; wc !^ ; rm !^</b>
Re-use all arguments from previous command	<b>\$ echo !* ; wc !* ; rm !*</b>

### Using the built-in shell history command (saved in `~/.bash_history`)

➤ **history | less**

- a) **Describe** what **kind** of output the above **history** command pipeline generates:  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) **Describe** what the double-exclamation command **!!** would do, but **don't** actually do it:  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) **Describe** what typing exclamation-two **!2** would do, but don't actually do it:  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) If the **history** command shows you a command, number **120**, that you would like to **re-execute**, what would you type into the shell to do that?  
 \_\_\_\_\_