CSC161 2011S *Imperative Problem Solving*

Assignment 1: Getting Started with Linux

Assigned: Tuesday, 25 January 2011
Due: 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, 26 January 2011
Extended to: 11:00 p.m., Friday, 28 January 2011

Summary: In this assignment, you will answer a few basic questions about and using common (and perhaps not-so-common) GNU/Linux commands.

Purposes: To give you more opportunity to learn about GNU/Linux. To get you used to turning in assignments on Wednesday evenings. (Whoops!)

Expected Time: One hour.

Collaboration: You may certainly work with other students as you explore the problems and develop answers. However, each student should turn in his or her own responses to this assignment and should document any collaboration. You may also discuss the assignment with anyone you wish, but should clearly document that help.

Submitting: Email me your answers.

Warning: So that this assignment is a learning experience for everyone, I may spend class time publicly critiquing your work.

Assignment

Answer the following questions.

1. Provide commands to create directories for this course (`CSC161`) and for this assignment (`hw1`, within the `CSC161` directory) within your home directory. You should *not* assume that the present working directory is your home directory, and you should not change directories.

2. What is the purpose of the option `-i` when used with the GNU utility `grep`?

3. Where in the file system hierarchy is the GNU utility touch located? Please answer this question and also tell me the process you used to find it.

4. There are eight sections of the Unix manual. Different sections collect different kinds of reference material. Determine the purpose of each section.

5. Create a file named `-f` with the following commands.

```
cat > -f
<ctrl-d>
```

(Note that <ctrl-d> means “hold down the control key and press the d key while continuing to hold down the control key”.)

Now, figure out how to get rid of that file. (In your answer, simply give the instructions for getting rid of the file.)

6. When you learned the `chmod` command, you learned it with absolute numeric permissions (e.g., 711 for “I can read, write, and execute; everyone else can only execute”). However, `chmod` also permits more mnemonic parameters. Read the man page and then indicate how to do the following using the mnemonic parameters:

- Make the file readable by everyone and writable only by the primary user.
- Remove write privileges from members of your group, keeping all other privileges the same.
- Add read privileges to all users (you, your group, everyone else).

7. As you may recall, the file `/home/rebelsky/share/linux/sciencefac.txt` contains an outdated list of science faculty at Grinnell. Write a command that presents all science faculty whose name includes “David”, alphabeticaly by last name. You will need to use the `grep` and `sort` commands, as well as I/O redirection with `|`.

8. Write a similar command that gives a list of all the science faculty not in Psychology.

Extra Credit

What happens to history when you have multiple open terminal windows? Devise an experiment to answer the question and then support the results of you experiment by referring to the documention.

Important Evaluation Criteria

I will evaluate your work on correctness, clarity, and concision. You may find that the latter two criteria conflict with each other.

Submitting Your Homework

Please submit this work via an email message entitled should be titled CSC161 Assignment 1.

Please send your work as the body of an email message. I don’t like attachments and prefer not to receive them when they can be avoided.

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