Sed Cheat Sheet

Sed command line options

Sed syntax: *sed [options] sed-command [input-file]*

-n	Suppress default pattern space printing	*sed -n '3 p' employee.txt*
-i	Backup and modify input file directly	*sed -ibak 's/John/Johnny/' employee.txt*
-f	Execute sed script file	*sed -f script.sed employee.txt*
-e	Execute multiple sed commands	*sed -e 'command1' -e 'command2' input-file*

Sed substitute command and flags

Syntax: *sed 's/original-string/replacement-string/[flags]' [input-file]*

g flag	Global substitution	*sed 's/Windows/Linux/g' world.txt*
1,2.. flag	Substitute the nth occurrence	*sed 's/locate/find/2' locate.txt*
p flag	Print only the substituted line	*sed -n 's/John/Johnny/p' employee.txt*
w flag	Write only the substituted line to a file	*sed -n 's/John/Johnny/w output.txt' employee.txt*
i flag	Ignore case while searching	*sed 's/john/Johnny/i' employee.txt*
e flag	Substitute and execute in the command line	*sed 's/^/ls -l /' files.txt*
/ | ^ @ !	Substitution delimiter can be any character	*sed 's@/usr/local/bin@/usr/bin@' path.txt*
&	Gets the matched pattern. Use this in replacement string.	*sed 's/^.*/<&>/' employee.txt #Encloses whole line between < and >*
\(\) \1 \2 \3	Group using \(and \). Use \1, \2 in replacement string to refer the group.	*sed 's/\([^,]*\),\([^,]*\),\([^,]*\).*/\1,\3/g' employee.txt #Get only 1st and 3rd column*

Sed commands

p	Print pattern space	*sed -n '1,4 p' employee.txt*
d	Delete lines	*sed -n '1,4 d' employee.txt*
w	Write pattern space to file	*sed -n '1,4 w output.txt' employee.txt*
a	Append line after	*sed '2 a new-line' employee.txt*

i	Insert line before	*sed '2 i new-line' employee.txt*
c	Change line	*sed '2 c new-line' employee.txt*
l	Print hidden characters	*sed -n l employee.txt*
=	Print line numbers	*sed = employee.txt	sed '{N;s/\n/ /}'*
y	Change case	*sed 'y/abcde/ABCDE/' employee.txt*
q	Quit sed	*sed '3 q' employee.txt*
r	Read from file	*sed '$ r log.txt' employee.txt*
#	Comment inside sed script	

Sed hold and pattern space commands

n	Print pattern space, empty pattern space, and read next line.
x	Swap pattern space with hold space
h	Copy pattern space to hold space
H	Append pattern space to hold space
g	Copy hold space to pattern space
G	Append hold space to pattern space

Loops and multi-line sed commands

b label	Branch to a label (for looping)
t label	Branch to a label only on successful substitution (for looping)
:label	Label for the b and t commands (for looping)
N	Append next line to pattern space
P	Print 1st line in multi-line
D	Delete 1st line in multi-line