

# System Administration and maintenance

## Cat Command

**cat** command (short for “**concatenate** “) is allows us to create single or multiple files, view contain of file, concatenate files and redirect output in terminal or files.

### basic syntax:

```
$ cat filename
```

```
$ cat > filename
```

```
$ cat [options] filename
```

- 1) To view a file using cat command,

```
$ cat filename
```

- 2) You can create a new file with the name file1.txt using the following cat command and you can type the text you want to insert in the file. Make sure you type ‘**Ctrl-d**’ at the end to save the file.

```
$ cat > file1.txt
```

This is my new file in Linux.

The cat command is very useful.

Thanks

display the contents of the file file1.txt

```
$ cat file1.txt
```

Output: This is my new file in Linux.

The cat command is very useful.

Thanks

- 3) To create two sample files and you need to concatenate them, use the following command.

```
$ cat smapple1.txt
```

This is my first sample text file  
**\$ cat sample2.txt**  
This is my second sample text file

- 4) concatenate these two files and can save to another file named sample3.txt

**\$ cat sample1.txt sample2.txt > sample3.txt**  
**\$ cat sample3.txt**  
Output: This is my first sample text file  
This is my second sample text file

- 5) **To display contents of all txt files,**

**\$ cat \*.txt**  
This is my first sample text file  
This is my second sample text file

- 6) To display the contents of a file with line number,

**\$ cat -n file1.txt**

- 7) To copy the content of one file to another file, you can use the greater than '>' symbol

**\$ cat file2.txt > file1.txt**

- 8) To append the contents of one file to another, you can use the double greater than '>>' symbol

**\$ cat sample1.txt >> sample2.txt**

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