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# 1 small tips

## 1.1 default directory

the directory of xdg-default were written in `/.config/user-dirs.dirs`. For example, if you want to set the default directory gnome search for wallpaper, you can change the value of “`XDG_PICTURE_DIR`” in that file to the directory path you want to.

## 1.2 number list

to put a list of continuous of number in vim, use `:put = range(n,m)`, and will generated a list from n to m in document. if want random list, should use shell command `:r! echo $RANDOM`<sup>1</sup>, and m is the limit of random.

to generate a continuous number list by shell, use `seq $BEGIN $END`, so for loop can use: `for i in $(seq $BEGIN $END);do ...` or `for i in {$BEGIN .. $END}; do ...`

## 1.3 calculate

to calculate the sum of the first line in file, use:

```
awk 's+=$1 END print s' file_include_data
```

if the data is not in the first line, change `$1`.

and some times awk will get into bug if the sum exceeding  $2^{31}$ , so use `printf` is a good choice: change the ‘`print s`’ to ‘`printf “%.0f”, s`’.

## 1.4 lambda function

python lambda function example: `test = lambda x, n: [x[i:i+n] for i in range(0, len(x), n)]` this can apart the string every n chars<sup>2</sup>, and lambda function usually used for the functions needed in a short time, it can also use with `filter()` or `map()` function, the syntax of lambda function: “lambda arguments: expression”

## 1.5 hex conversion

```
awk '{print “ibase=10;obase=2;” $1 }' $file |bc |xargs printf “%08d\n”
```

this can convert every line in `$file` from decimal to binary of 8 bits.

“`xxd -p`” can print only the value, no line number and characters.

python convert hex to bin: `bin(int3(str, 16))[2:]`

<sup>1</sup>:`r! echo $((RANDOM%m))` seems can not be used in vim

<sup>2</sup>this can use `re.findall('?.',str)` to replace

<sup>3</sup>`int()` function have two arguments, the first is string of number, and the last is the base of this number, for example, `int('AB9', 16)` can get  $2745((2745)_{10} = (AB9)_{16})$ .

## 1.6 mail in command line

config before use “mail” command to send e-mail: edit config file<sup>4</sup>, add these lines:

```
set from="your_email_address" smtp="smtp_address_of_your_mail_server"
set smtp-auth-user="your_email_address" smtp-auth-password="your_password"
set smtp-auth=login set smtp-use-starttls(this enable SSL)
```

## 1.7 cron table

set cron work:

use crontab -e, and add work in the file, the format is: *min hour day month year work*.

## 1.8 merge output

if you want to use the output of multi command as input by pipe, then you need to parenthesis these two commands, such as:

```
(echo "test" ; cat hello.txt) |mail -s "test" username@mailaddress
```

## 1.9 distro check

if you want to check your distro without screenfetch or neofetch installed, you can use: “cat /etc/\*-release”, then it will output the distro information of your distro.

## 1.10 different authority for different user

if you want to make different users have different authority to a certain file, you can use *setfacl*: for example, if you want to set all authority to *file* file with group *group*, you can use:

```
setfacl -m g:group:rwx -R5 file
```

and then use:“setfacl -m g:<sup>6</sup>test:r -R file”to set only read authority to group test.

## 1.11 use footnote in table or other environments

use \footnotemark in the position you need to note, and then use \footnotetext{*your\_footnote*} out the environment.

---

<sup>4</sup>archlinux use /etc/mail.rc, ubuntu use /etc/s-nail.rc

<sup>5</sup>-R is to use recursive

<sup>6</sup>for user, use u:

## 1.12 use locate to find directories

locate didn't have that option, but we can use the feature of locate to get that:

```
locate -b '/dir_name'
```

or you can use regex:

```
locate -r dir_name$
```

## 1.13 list directory by size

```
du -sh -B BLOCKSIZE */ |sort -nr
```

This command will list your subdirectory in current directory by size and from big to small, *BLOCKSIZE* such as M, it will output the size by certain format, \*/ is path, you can also use another path replace it, but you should add “/\*” in the tail.

```
du -sh */ |sort -h
```

This will directly sort by size, not need to appoint block size.

## 1.14 get some informations in sqlite

### 1.14.1 get column names from certain table

if you are in sqlite command, you can execute `‘.schema table_name’` to get it;

or if you are in python or you just want to use sql command to get it, you can try:

```
SELECT sql FROM sqlite_master WHERE tbl_name = 'table_name' AND type = 'table'
```

### 1.14.2 get tables names from current dbfile

if you are in sqlite command, you can execute `‘.tables’` to get it;

or if you are in python or you just want to use sql command to get it, you can try:

```
SELECT name FROM sqlite_master WHERE type = 'table'
```

## 1.15 batch rename file with sequential numbers

Firstly, set a variable:

```
a=1
```

and then execute the while loop (or for loop):

```
ls *.jpg | while read line;do mv $line ` printf "%03d.jpg" "$a" ` ;let a=a+1;done
```

## 1.16 some tips of regular expression

To change a certain line a a certain text block, you can use:

```
sed -i "/pattern1/,/pattern2/s/origin_pattern/dest_pattern/g" filename
```

### 1.16.1 find pattern in many files

```
grep -rnw '/path/to/destination' -e 'pattern'
```

## 1.17 change the calling priority of commands

To call commands in linux, the system will find the command in the paths which *PATH* variable stores, and the order of path in *PATH* variable depend the priority of calling commands. So, you can adjust the order of paths in *PATH* variable to make you call certain commands.

For example, if you have a different version of gcc from gcc in your system in your current directoy, you can use

```
export PATH=.:$PATH$
```

and then when you type */usr/bin/envgcc*, or execute the program include it, you use the one in your current directory <sup>7</sup>

## 1.18 some things for git

1. tracking

- `git add -a` stages All

---

<sup>7</sup>It's temporarily, it malfunctions after you logout the shell, expect you put this in your *.bashrc*.

- `git add .` stages new and modified, without deleted
  - `git add -A` stages modified and deleted.
  - `git rebase <hash>` move current branch to top of commit with hash `<hash>`.
  - `git clean` delete all untracked files, you can use `-n` to only list them.
2. **do delete, modify or some other operations to your older commits:** use `git rebase -i <commit_name>`, and you will enter the editor, and there will be commands in comments, such as drop, pick, squash and so on. If you want to modify root commit, you can use `git rebase -i -root`.
  3. **don't generate a new commit in merge when no conflict** use `git merge --ff <branch_name>`, ff stand for **fast forward**, or use `--ff-only`. git use `--no-ff` as default in merging, so you need to cancel it.
  4. about github: **if you want to amend or cancel a commit**<sup>8</sup>, use `git push -f github_repository branch` to force push to your github repository.

## 1.19 reverse string

- if just reverse the order of lines in file, use `tac filename`
- if you want to reverse the order of every character in file, use `tac -r -s ?? filename`

## 1.20 generate package list installed in archlinux

```
pacman -Qqe > filename
```

And if you want to list the low-level packages as dependences, you can add `'-t'` option.<sup>9</sup>

If you don't want to list packages in aur, you can add `'-n'` option.

Then, when you want to reinstall these packages in a new archlinux, you can run

```
pacman -S - < filename
```

<sup>8</sup>use `git reset --soft HEAD~1`

<sup>9</sup>Reference in Archwiki

### 1.21 count the matched pattern in vim

Type this in commandline mode in vim:

```
%s/<pattern>//gn
```

### 1.22 convert markdown to pdf

```
pandoc source -f markdown -o destination
```

if you want to convert document which include unicode characters, you can appoint the engine:

```
pandoc source -f markdown -o destination --pdf-engine=xelatex -V CJKmainfont=fontname
```

### 1.23 get http status code by curl

```
curl -o -I -L -s -w "%{http_code}\n" host_url
```

### 1.24 compare the contents in two directories

```
diff --brief -r directory1 directory2
```

shorter for:

```
diff -qr directory1 directory2
```

If you also want to see differences for files that may not exist in either directory:

```
diff --brief -Nr dir1/ dir2/
```

### 1.25 change contents inside "", [], () in vim

For "", you can use this in command mode:

```
ci"
```

and for (), [], you can use `ci(`, `ci[`  
for y, it also works, if use a, it will copy the symbol also.

`cit` can be used to change the contents in html or xml tags.  
and for `"`, you can use `\textquotedbl` to print it in  $\LaTeX$ .

## 1.26 shell string calculating

if you have a variable which stores a string, like `TEST="this is a test"`  
Then, if you want to get the length of it, you can simply type

```
echo ${#TEST}
```

on you shell, and then you get the length of variable TEST.

```
echo ${TEST:n}
```

This can output the  $n_{th}$  to the tail of string \$TEST.

```
echo ${TEST:n:m}
```

This can output m characters begin from  $n_{th}$  of string \$TEST, if  $m < 0$ , you will get  $n_{th}$  to count down  $m_{th}$  characters.

As for string add, you can just put the two variables as the arguments of `echo >_<`.

You can use this in the batch processing, for example, traversal all jpg files, and remove the extension, and then convert them to png by `imagemagick`.

```
for i in *.jpg ; do convert $i ${i:0:-4}.png ; done
```

## 1.27 some regex common used in shell

I think the most common regex in shell is `*`, and it match any string.

This may be `'or': '{str1,str2}'`, match `str1` or `str2`, you can also use more, septate by `','`.

## 1.28 some usages about mplayer

If you want to use outer audio when you are playing a video, you can use `mplayer -audiofile audio_name video_name`

And if you want to play media in a list, you can use `mplayer -playlist list.lst`

If listen a certain media in a loop, use this: `mplayer -loop 0 media_name`, if not 0, mplayer will play the number times of this. (you can also use `list` to play this list for certain loops)

### 1.29 convert pdf to another version

```
gs -sDEVICE=pdfwrite -dCompatibilityLevel=version -dPDFSETTINGS=/screen -dNOPAUSE -dQUIET -
```

This can solve the problem which some pdf viewers didn't support older pdf version (such as evince), but the filename can not be Chinese, otherwise it will meet problem and fail to convert.

### 1.30 Add subtitle to video data flow

```
ffmpeg -i video.mp4 -vf subtitles=subtitle.srt test2.mp4
```

### 1.31 check the command line arguments of kernel boot

```
cat /proc/cmdline
```

and you will get output like this:

---

```
BOOT_IMAGE=/boot/vmlinuz-2.6.38-7-generic root=UUID=025c4231-  
b7bb-48bf-93e9-d20c5b5ce123 ro quiet splash
```

---

or you can use this:

```
dmesg | grep "Command line"
```

### 1.32 Clear the cache for one page in firefox

Sometimes one page was modified, but you will see previous version in firefox, and it's caused by the cache stored in firefox. However, if you want to fresh this page, sometimes you only need ctrl+r. If that not work, you can find this page in history, and right click it, then choose "Forget About This Site".

### 1.33 Make a public directory under a private directory

If you don't want to make the parent directory (private directory) listable, you can only give it 'x' right for public. but if no 'x' right, you can't access the child directory, either. You can access the subdirectory and the contents under it by type full name.

### 1.34 Convert pdf from sRGB to CMYK

```
gs -dSAFER -dBATCH -dNOPAUSE -dNOCACHE -sDEVICE=pdfwrite -sColorConversionStrategy=CMYK
```

### **1.35 use linebreak in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X code listing**

use ‘breaklines=true’ option if you use listings package