Scripting Utilities Cheatsheet

A comprehensive cheat sheet covering various scripting utilities, including `xargs`, `find`, `sed`, `awk`, `grep`, and `jq`. This cheat sheet provides a quick reference to essential commands, options, and examples to help you automate tasks and manipulate data efficiently.

xargs & find

xargs Basics

`xargs`	Build and execute command lines from standard input. Takes input from stdin and converts it to arguments for a command.
`xargs [options] [command]`	General syntax. If `command` is omitted, `xargs` defaults to `/bin/echo`.
`-n max-args`	Use at most `max-args` arguments per command line.
`-I replace-str`	Replace occurrences of `replace-str` in the initial-arguments with names read from standard input. Also implies `-x` and `-L 1`.
`-L max-lines`	Use at most `max-lines` non-blank input lines per command line.
`-d delimiter`	Input items are terminated by the specified character. Useful when filenames contain spaces.

find Basics

`find [path] [expression]`	Search for files in a directory hierarchy.
`-name pattern`	Base of file name (the path with the leading directories removed) matches shell pattern `pattern`.
`-type type`	File is of type `type`: `f`: regular file `d`: directory `l`: symbolic link
`-mtime n`	File's data was last modified `n`*24 hours ago.
`-exec command {} +`	Execute `command`; all matched files will be appended to the end of the command.
`-delete`	Delete files; be careful when using this option.

Combining xargs and find

Common use case: using `find` to locate files and `xargs` to process them.

```
find . -name "*.txt" -print0 | xargs -0 wc -l
```

This command finds all `.txt` files in the current directory and its subdirectories, and then counts the number of lines in each file using `wc -l`. `-print0` and `-0` handle filenames with spaces correctly.

sed

sed Basics

`sed 'command' inputfile`	Apply `command` to each line of `inputfile`. Output to standard output.
`sed -i 'command' inputfile`	Modify `inputfile` in-place.
`s/pattern/replacement/flags`	Substitute `pattern` with `replacement`. `flags` can be `g` (global), `i` (case-insensitive), etc.
`[address]command`	Apply `command` only to lines matching `address`. Address can be a line number, a regex pattern, or a range.
`d`	Delete line.
`p`	Print line. (Often used with `-n` to suppress default printing).

sed Examples

```
sed 's/foo/bar/g' file.txt
```

Replace all occurrences of `foo` with `bar` in `file.txt` and print to standard output.

```
sed -i 's/foo/bar/g' file.txt
```

Replace all occurrences of `foo` with `bar` in `file.txt` in-place.

```
sed '/^#/d' file.txt
```

Delete all lines starting with `#`.

```
sed -n '/pattern/p' file.txt
```

Print only lines that match `pattern`.

```
sed '2,5d' file.txt
```

Delete lines 2 through 5.

```
sed '$d' file.txt
```

Delete the last line.

awk

awk Basics

`awk 'pattern { action }' file`	Process `file` line by line. If `pattern` matches, execute `action`.
`BEGIN { action }`	Execute `action` before processing any lines.
`END { action }`	Execute `action` after processing all lines.
`$0`	The entire line.
`$1, $2, ...`	The first, second, etc. field (column) in the line.
`NF`	Number of fields in the current line.

awk Examples

```
awk '{ print $1 }' file.txt
```

Print the first field of each line.

```
awk '{ print $NF }' file.txt
```

Print the last field of each line.

```
awk '/pattern/ { print }' file.txt
```

Print all lines that match `pattern`.

```
awk '$1 > 10 { print }' file.txt
```

Print all lines where the first field is greater than 10.

```
awk 'BEGIN { sum = 0 } { sum += $1 } END { print sum }' file.txt
```

Calculate the sum of the first field of all lines.

```
awk -F',' '{ print $2 }' file.csv
```

Print the second field of each line in a CSV file, using `,` as the field separator.

grep & jq

grep Basics

`grep [options] pattern [file]`	Search for `pattern` in `file`. If no file is specified, grep searches standard input.
`-i`	Case-insensitive search.
`-v`	Invert match. Select non-matching lines.
`-r` or `-R`	Recursive search.
`-n`	Print line number with output lines.
`-c`	Print only a count of matching lines per file.

grep Examples

```
grep 'foo' file.txt
```

Print all lines in `file.txt` that contain `foo`.

```
grep -i 'foo' file.txt
```

Print all lines in `file.txt` that contain `foo`, case-insensitive.

```
grep -v 'foo' file.txt
```

Print all lines in `file.txt` that do *not* contain `foo`.

```
grep -r 'foo' .
```

Recursively search for `foo` in all files in the current directory.

```
grep -n 'foo' file.txt
```

Print all lines in `file.txt` that contain `foo`, along with their line numbers.

```
grep -c 'foo' file.txt
```

Print the number of lines in `file.txt` that contain `foo`.

jq Basics

`jq [options] 'filter' [file]`	JSON processor. If no file specified, reads from stdin.
`.`	The identity filter. Outputs the input as is.
`.key`	Access the value associated with the key `key`.
`.[]`	Access all elements in an array.
`|`	Pipe filters.
`--raw-output` or `-r`	Output raw strings, not JSON.

jq Examples

```
jq '.' data.json
```

Pretty-print the JSON in `data.json`.

```
jq '.name' data.json
```

Extract the value associated with the key `name`.

```
jq '.users[]' data.json
```

Extract all elements from the `users` array.

```
jq '.users[].name' data.json
```

Extract the `name` field from each element in the `users` array.

```
jq '[.[] | .age]' data.json
```

Extract the age from each element of the top-level array.

```
curl -s https://api.example.com/data | jq '.[]
| .title'
```

Fetch data from an API and extract the `title` field from each element in the resulting array.