

Implementing a command line thesaurus

Many people make use of `dict` to lookup word definitions. (If this is new to you, try `dict word`). Sometimes what we need instead of a dictionary is a thesaurus. This week's tip demonstrates a script to do just that.

Note: You need `html2text` installed before using this script.

Code Listing 1: `~/bin/thes`

```
#!/bin/sh
#-----
# Command line thesaurus

BROWSER="/usr/bin/lynx -source"
WEBSITE="http://thesaurus.reference.com/search?q=$1"
HTML2TEXT="/usr/bin/html2text -style compact"

if test $1; then
    ${BROWSER} ${WEBSITE} | ${HTML2TEXT} | ${PAGER}
else
    echo "Usage: $0 word"
    exit 1
fi
```

To use this script, name it `thes`, make it executable, and make sure that it's in your `$PATH`. Then, run the script followed by the word you're interested in.

Code Listing 2

```
$ thes word
```

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