

Using script

This tip shows you how to use `script` as a way to store or share everything printed during a terminal session. This can be a great way to remotely demonstrate command-line Linux to a less experienced user. Alternatively, it's a good way to keep a record of everything you do (or did) for a specific session.

First we'll look at keeping a record of everything. This can be done by just issuing the command `script`. The output of your session will be written to a file named `typescript`. If you want to specify a file other than the default, use `script file` where `file` is the name of the file storing the session.

Code Listing 1: Creating a script session

```
% script
Script started, file is typescript
% uptime
 13:27:53 up 89 days,  3:50,  1 user,  load average: 0.27, 0.35, 0.29
% uname -srvmpio
Linux 2.4.20-gentoo-r4 #1 SMP Fri May 9 08:54:35 EDT 2003 i686 Intel(R) Xeon(TM)
CPU 2.00GHz GenuineIntel GNU/Linux
% exit
Script done, file is typescript
```

The session file can be reviewed later with a pager such as `more`, `less`, or `cat`.

Code Listing 2: Viewing a script session

```
% more typescript
Script started on Wed Aug  6 13:27:47 2003
% uptime
 13:27:53 up 89 days,  3:50,  1 user,  load average: 0.27, 0.35, 0.29
% uname -srvmpio
Linux 2.4.20-gentoo-r4 #1 SMP Fri May 9 08:54:35 EDT 2003 i686 Intel(R) Xeon(TM)
CPU 2.00GHz GenuineIntel GNU/Linux
% exit

Script done on Wed Aug  6 13:28:01 2003
```

Now we'll look at sharing a terminal session. The easiest way to do this is combining `script` with `mkfifo` (which creates a named pipe). Note that you need to use the `-f` option (`script -f`) to flush output after each write. This way, the terminal can be written to by User A and viewed in (near) real time by User B.

Code Listing 3: User A's terminal

```
% mkfifo demo; script -f demo
Script started, file is demo
% echo 'Hello World'
Hello World
% exit
Script done, file is demo
```

Note: User A's terminal will wait for input until User B issues the cat command (or accesses the named pipe).

Code Listing 4: User B's terminal

```
% cat demo
Script started on Wed Aug  6 13:48:51 2003
% echo 'Hello World'
Hello World
% exit

Script done on Wed Aug  6 13:49:04 2003
```

There are many other ways script could be used - hopefully this will give you some ideas to get you started.

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