Protecting files with noclobber

This tip is for people who have ever hosed important files by using > when they meant to use >>. Add the following line to .bashrc:

```
set -o noclobber.
```

The noclobber option prevents you from overwriting existing files with the > operator.

Code Listing 1

```
% program > file2
bash: file2: cannot overwrite existing file
```

In some cases you may really want to overwrite the file. In this case, instead of turning noclobber off, you can use >! to force the file to be written.

Code Listing 2

```
% program >! file2
```

From http://www.gentoo.org/news/en/gwn/20040614-newsletter.xml

image:rdf newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rdf.png (null)
|
image:rss newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rss.png (null)
|
image:Atom newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/atom.png (null)
- Powered by
image:LeopardCMS / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/leopardcms.png (null)
- Running on
image:Gentoo / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/gentoo.png (null)
-

image:Valid XHTML1.1 / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/xhtml.png (null)
:
image:Valid CSS / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/css.png (null)
:
image:buttonmaker / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/buttonmaker.png (null)
- Level Triple-A Conformance to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 -
- Copyright and legal notices -
Time to create this page: ms
<!--
image:system status display / /status/output.jpg (null)
-->
bodyloaded();