EWB COURSES

LEARN. ELEVATE. EMPOWER.

DAY 03 | PART 6

head, tail, wc and Pipes

Look at the start or end of a file, count lines, and chain commands with |.

head tail wc |

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

head, tail, wc and Pipes

EWB COURSES
LEARN. ELEVATE. EMPOWER.

1. Show the first or last lines of a file
2. Count lines, words and bytes with wc
3. Chain commands with a pipe
4. Combine head and tail to pick the middle

REFERENCE

Reading parts of a file

EWB COURSES
LEARN. ELEVATE. EMPOWER.

COMMAND	WHAT IT DOES
head -2 file	First 2 lines
tail -1 file	Last 1 line
wc file	Counts lines, words and bytes
head -2 file | tail -1	Pipe: send the output of one command into another - here, the 2nd line

TRY IT

Pick any line you want

EWB COURSES
LEARN. ELEVATE. EMPOWER.

Create file1 first with cat > file1 (five lines: line1 … line5).

```
$ cat file1
$ head -3 file1
$ tail -2 file1
$ head -3 file1 | tail -2
$ head -4 file1 | tail -1
$ wc file1
```

The pipe |

Takes what the left command prints and gives it to the right command.

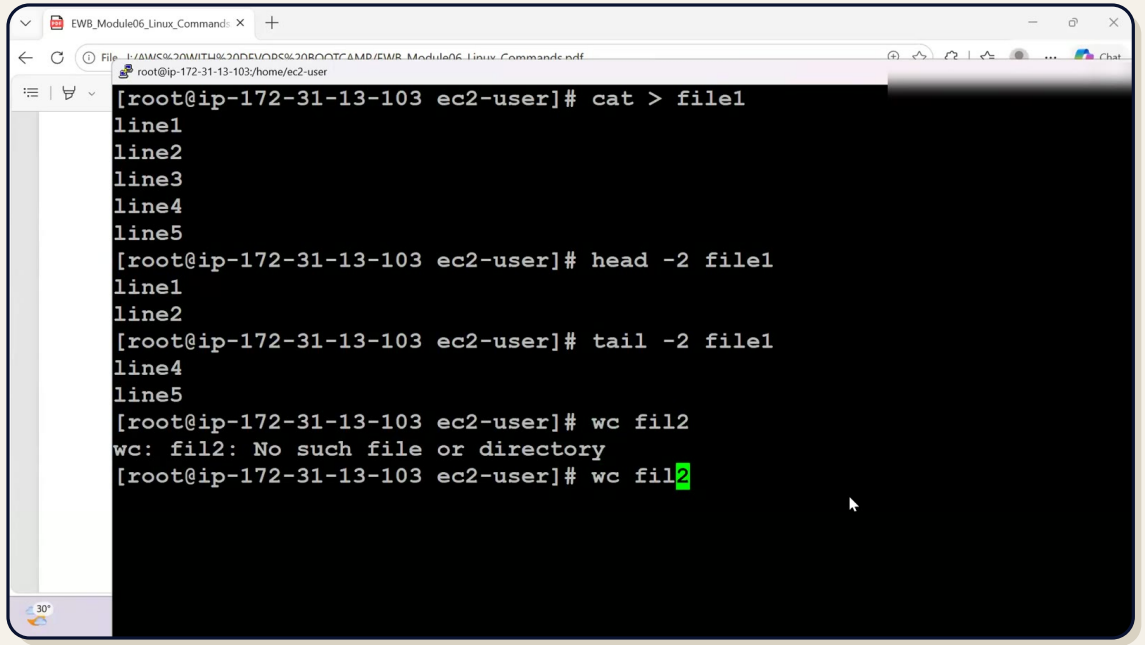
Line number n

head -n file | tail -1 prints exactly line n.

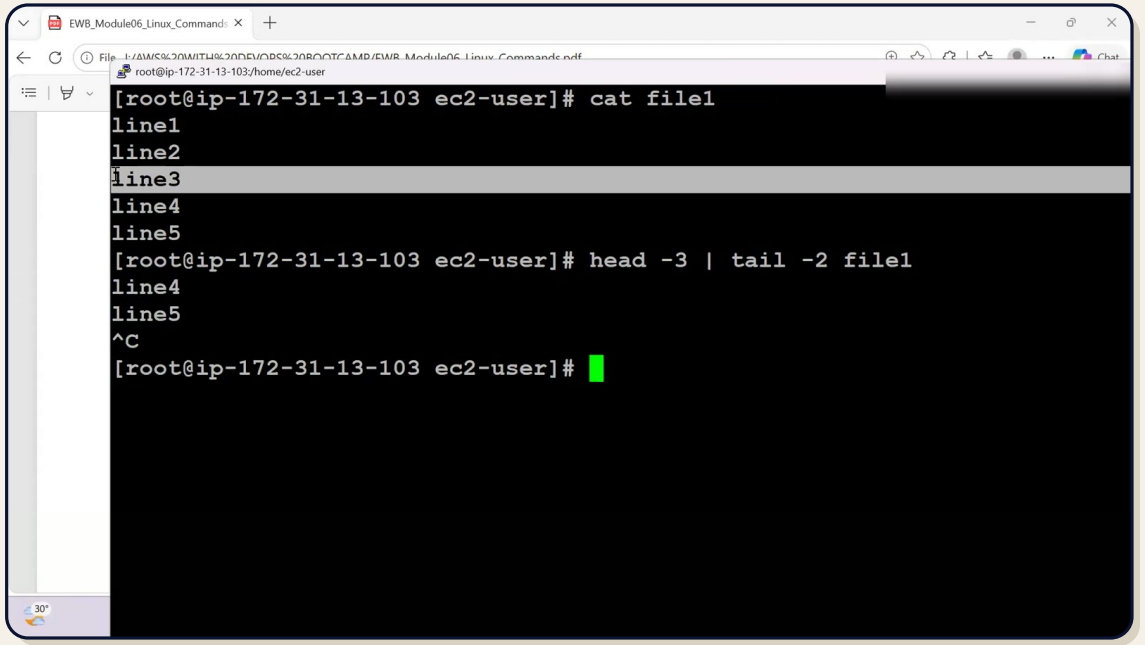
FROM THE CLASS

Slicing a file

EWB COURSES
LEARN. ELEVATE. EMPOWER.



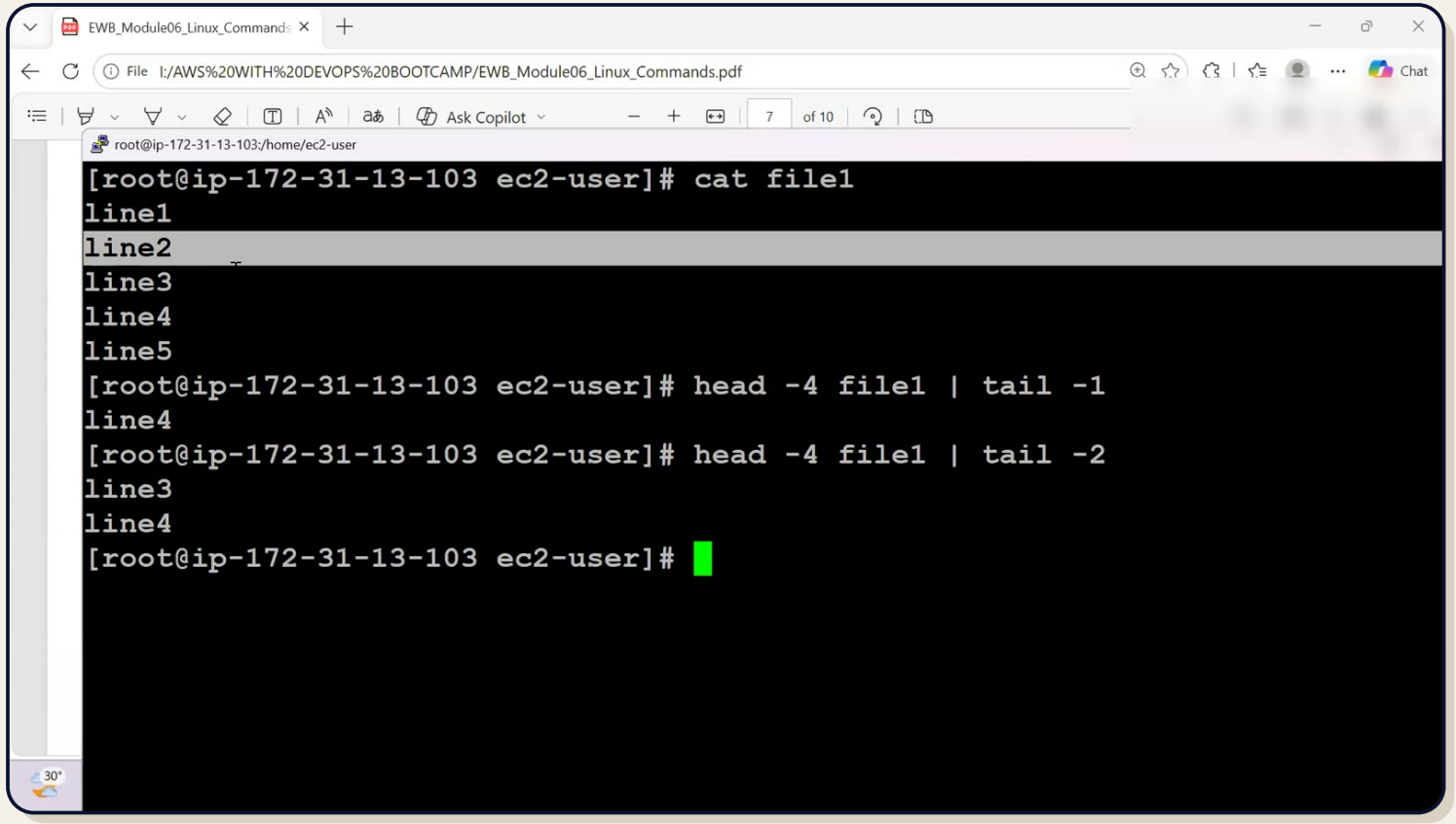
cat file1 showing five lines



head and tail combined with a pipe

FROM THE CLASS

Why pipes matter



A moment from the recording for this part.

Small tools

Each command does one job. Pipes join them into a powerful workflow.

DevOps use

Log files can have millions of lines - head, tail and grep help you find the one you need.

QUICK RECAP

What to remember

- head = first lines, tail = last lines
- wc counts lines, words and bytes
- | passes output to the next command
- head -n | tail -1 gives line n

PRACTICE

Practice questions

EWB COURSES
LEARN. ELEVATE. EMPOWER.

Q1 Which command shows the last 2 lines?

A. head -2
B. tail -2
C. wc -2
D. cat -2

Q2 What does | do?

A. Deletes
B. Passes output to the next command
C. Copies
D. Saves

Q3 How to print only line 3 of a file?

A. head -3 file | tail -1
B. tail -3 file | head
C. cat file 3
D. wc -3 file

Q4 What does wc show?

A. Lines, words, bytes
B. Colours
C. Users
D. Ports

PRACTICE

Practice questions - answers

EWB COURSES
LEARN. ELEVATE. EMPOWER.

Q1 Which command shows the last 2 lines?

Answer: B. tail -2

tail -2.

Q2 What does | do?

Answer: B. Passes output to the next command

It is the pipe.

Q3 How to print only line 3 of a file?

Answer: A. head -3 file | tail -1

Take 3 lines, then keep the last one.

Q4 What does wc show?

Answer: A. Lines, words, bytes

Word count.