Definitive Guide to sed: Tutorial and Reference

Daniel A. Goldman

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What is sed? - sed is a "stream editor". sed rapidly and reliably transforms text files, and edits "streams" (program outputs) on the fly. sed is a uniquely useful text processing tool, installed by default on Unix computers. sed can also be used on a Windows PC.

Why should I learn sed? - If you write scripts, maintain source code, maintain web sites, or process text data, sed can help make your work more productive and enjoyable. Plus, sed is fun and interesting to use.

Why should I buy this book? - "Definitive Guide to sed" is the best way to learn sed. "Definitive Guide" greatly lessens the confusion many encounter on trying to learn sed. The book serves as a full tutorial and reference, useful for both beginning and experienced sed users.

Any prerequisites? - If you plan to use sed on Unix, it is recommended to be familiar with basic Unix commands and to have written some simple shell scripts. If you plan to use sed on Windows, it is recommended to be familiar with batch or PowerShell scripting. sed is not a "beginner's tool".

Which sed is covered? - GNU sed 4.2.1 is covered. If you use a different sed, this book is still useful for learning sed, since most of the commands are the same.

What topics are covered?

- All sed commands and options
- All regular expressions as used within GNU sed
- Addresses to specify when sed commands are run
- Related Unix text utilities, such as grep, head, and tr
- Many example sed scripts with full explanations
- Reference sections for easy lookup

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