Sed & Awk

Dale Dougherty, Arnold Robbins

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sed & awk describes two text processing programs that are mainstays of the UNIX programmer's toolbox.*sed* is a "stream editor" for editing streams of text that might be too large to edit as a single file, or that might be generated on the fly as part of a larger data processing step. The most common operation done with *sed* is substitution, replacing one block of text with another.*awk* is a complete programming language. Unlike many conventional languages, *awk* is "data driven" -- you specify what kind of data you are interested in and the operations to be performed when that data is found. *awk* does many things for you, including automatically opening and closing data files, reading records, breaking the records up into fields, and counting the records. While *awk* provides the features of most conventional programming languages, it also includes some unconventional features, such as extended regular expression matching and associative arrays. *sed & awk* describes both programs in detail and includes a chapter of example *sed* and *awk* scripts.This edition covers features of *sed* and *awk* that are mandated by the POSIX standard. This most notably affects *awk*, where POSIX standardized a new variable, CONVFMT, and new functions, *toupper*() and *tolower*(). The CONVFMT variable specifies the conversion format to use when converting numbers to strings (*awk* used to use OFMT for this purpose). The *toupper*() and *tolower*() functions each take a (presumably mixed case) string argument and return a new version of the string with all letters translated to the corresponding case.In addition, this edition covers GNU *sed*, newly available since the first edition. It also updates the first edition coverage of Bell Labs *nawk* and GNU *awk* (*gawk*), covers *mawk*, an additional freely available implementation of *awk*, and briefly discusses three commercial versions of *awk*, MKS *awk*, Thompson Automation *awk* (*tawk*), and Videosoft (VSAwk).

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