

**Subject:** pop quiz: command line programming

**From:** Joseph Picone <joseph.picone@gmail.com>

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**To:** nedc\_research <nedc\_research@googlegroups.com>

**CC:** temple\_engineering\_ece1111 <temple\_engineering\_ece1111@googlegroups.com>

Can anyone guess what this command does?

```
nedc_130_[1]: p
/data/isip/tools/linux_x64/nfc/bin
nedc_130_[1]: file * | grep Python | cut -d":" -f1 | xargs ls -l
```

and why it is so useful?

What about this version:

```
nedc_130_[1]: file * | grep ELF | cut -d":" -f1 | xargs ls -l
```

Now, something a little harder:

```
cd $HOME
mkdir foo
cd foo
touch x.txt
touch y.txt
file * | grep ELF | cut -d":" -f1 | xargs ls -l
```

What happened?

It always amazes me how much vision the early developers of the C programming language and the Unix operating system had. Quite remarkable that they could get so much right for a technology whose potential was not yet completely understood.

-Joe