{Less} command cheat sheet

USAGE

$ less [OPTION...] FILENAME

DESCRIPTION

The less command is a Linux command-line utility that displays the contents of a file one page at a time. The less command is similar to the more command, but it has a number of powerful features that allows you to navigate back and forth through a text file, as well as doing some advance text searching. The name less comes from the phrase "less is more."

EXAMPLE

$ less /var/logs/logs.txt

FORWARD SEARCH

/	Search forward for a pattern
n	Move forward for the next occurrence.
N	Move backward for the previous occurrence

BACKWARD SEARCH

?	Search backward for a pattern.
n	Move backward for the next occurrence.
N	Move forward for the previous occurrence.

WORK WITH MULTIPLE FILES

:e filename	While viewing a file with less this command allows you to open/examine.
:n	Go to the next file.
:p	Go to the previous file.

NAVIGATION

SPACE or CTRL+F	Navigate forward one window
b or CTRL+B	Move backward one window
d or CTRL+D	Navigate forward half window
u or CTRL+U	Navigate backward half window
j	Navigate forward by one line
10j	Navigate 10 lines forward.
k	Navigate backward by one line
10k	Move 10 lines backward.
G	Go to the end of the file
g	Go to the start of the file
q or ZZ	Exit the less pager

OTHER COMMANDS

F	Follow the end of the file as more lines are added, similar to tail -f.
m<any-lower-letter>	Mark the current position with the letter the specified lower letter.
'<lower-letter>	Go to the marked position marked with the specified lower letter.
&<pattern>	Display only the matching lines, not all.
v	Open the current file in the default editor.
CTRL+G or =	Show the current file name along with line, byte, and percentage statistics.
h	Display help.

SOME USEFUL OPTIONS

-N	Displays line numbers on each line, allowing you to easily track the position of specific lines within the file.
-i	Enables case-insensitive searching. When searching for a pattern using /, it matches both uppercase and lowercase versions of the letters.
-F	Automatically exits less if the entire file can be displayed on one screen. Useful when viewing smaller files.
-p <pattern>	Opens less and jumps directly to the first occurrence of the specified pattern in the file.
-S	Chops long lines instead of wrapping them. This is helpful when viewing files with long lines and you prefer horizontal scrolling instead of wrapping.
-e	Quits less automatically after reaching the end of the file.
+<number>	Starts less at the specified line number in the file.