

How to Print All columns From the nth to the Last?

written by sysadmin | 4 August 2025

I often see a log where I want to print sequential columns in the log for a purpose.

Problem

How to print all columns from the nth to the last?

Solution

For example, you have a test.txt file that contains the following:

No	Name	Address
1	Richard	Apt. 344 86094 Swaniawski Drive, East Suzetteshire, MT 51323-2013
2	Alex	4522 Rosenbaum Island, Lake Suzan, IL 68193
3	Bryan	Apt. 907 703 Douglas Run, West Brainburgh, MT 70080-8990

```
sysadmin@LinuxMint:~/Documents/scripts$ cat test.txt
No Name Address
1 Richard Apt. 344 86094 Swaniawski Drive, East Suzetteshire, MT 51323-2013
2 Alex 4522 Rosenbaum Island, Lake Suzan, IL 68193
3 Bryan Apt. 907 703 Douglas Run, West Brainburgh, MT 70080-8990
sysadmin@LinuxMint:~/Documents/scripts$
```

Display the log

Usually, to display the complete Address column, I will run the command below:

```
awk '{print $3,$4,$5,$6,$7,$8,$9,$10,$11,$12}' test.txt
```

```
sysadmin@LinuxMint:~/Documents/scripts$ awk '{print $3,$4,$5,$6,$7,$8,$9,$10,$11,$12}' test.txt
Address
Apt. 344 86094 Swaniawski Drive, East Suzetteshire, MT 51323-2013
4522 Rosenbaum Island, Lake Suzan, IL 68193
Apt. 907 703 Douglas Run, West Brainburgh, MT 70080-8990
sysadmin@LinuxMint:~/Documents/scripts$
```

Using the original script

However, I think this method is less effective because if the address is more than 12 columns, then I have to write more than 12 items, and it is very tiring. After searching on the internet, there are 2 methods you can use:

1. Using the awk command

From the test.txt file, you just want to print the entire column except columns 1 and 2, then you can use the command below:

```
awk '{$1=$2=""; print $0}' test.txt
```

The result will be as shown in the image below:

```
sysadmin@LinuxMint:~/Documents/scripts$ awk '{$1=$2=""; print $0}' test.txt
Address
Apt. 344 86094 Swaniawski Drive, East Suzetteshire, MT 51323-2013
4522 Rosenbaum Island, Lake Suzan, IL 68193
Apt. 907 703 Douglas Run, West Brainburgh, MT 70080-8990
sysadmin@LinuxMint:~/Documents/scripts$
```

Using the awk command

2. Using the cut command

In addition to using awk, you can also use the cut command to display the same by using the command below:

```
cut -d' ' -f3- test.txt
```

And the result will be as shown in the image below when you run the command above:

```
sysadmin@LinuxMint:~/Documents/scripts$ cut -d' ' -f3- test.txt
Name      Address
Richard   Apt. 344 86094 Swaniawski Drive, East Suzetteshire, MT 51323-2013
Alex      4522 Rosenbaum Island, Lake Suzan, IL 68193
Bryan     Apt. 907 703 Douglas Run, West Brainburgh, MT 70080-8990
sysadmin@LinuxMint:~/Documents/scripts$
```

Using the cut command

Warning

Replace the variable `-f3-` with what column you will start printing. If you start printing from column 7, then change the command above to the following:

```
cut -d" " -f7- test.txt
```

Note

There are still several methods to print columns that run from the `nth` to the last column, but I think those two methods will suffice.

References

testingbot.com
stackoverflow.com