Greenberg, S. (1988). Using Unix: Collected traces of 168 users. Research Report 88/333/45, Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada.

Data availability: The user data described in this report is available for research use on request.

## Using Unix: Collected traces of 168 users

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#### Abstract

The task of collecting long-term data on real-life computer use is onerous. There is the technical difficulty of writing monitoring software, the social inertia of attracting individuals to the study, and the often overwhelming politics of obtaining an organization's permission for executing the study. To save other researchers the time and effort required to collect such data, this paper describes how command line data from 168 users of the UNIX<sup>1</sup> csh system was collected and organized. The accompanying magnetic tape includes all the data files.

#### 1 Introduction

This report describes how command line data was collected from 168 users of the UNIX csh. All data is included in the enclosed magnetic tape. The tape is made publically available for several reasons. It will save other researchers the time and effort required to collect long-term data. It will allow my own work to be replicated by others. It will allow us to compare and contrast analyses and results produced by different researchers.

The data was originally collected as part of a PhD project (Greenberg, 1988). Amongst other things, the resulting dissertation includes a comparison of collection methodologies used by other researchers studying UNIX, as well as a survey of their work. Excerpts from the dissertation are found in two papers. The first describes how people use commands in UNIX, while the second reports on the statistics of the complete command line entered by the user, rather than just the command itself (Greenberg and Witten, 1988a and 1988b). In the later, particular attention is paid to how users repeat their command lines during their system interactions.

The next section reviews briefly why studies of UNIX are worthwhile. The subsequent section describes how data was collected for the current study, while the final section describes how the data on the accompanying tape is formatted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Unix is a trademark of A T & T Bell Laboratories.

#### 2 Why study Unix?

Observations of everyday human-computer interaction can, at least in principle, give valuable insight into people's behaviour when using computers. One popular vehicle for such studies is the UNIX operating system.

Studying UNIX is attractive for a variety of reasons. First, it is not a contrived "toy" system. Rather, it is widely used, very powerful and potentially complex, and has a broad range of users (Kraut, Hanson, and Farber, 1983). Because it is a general-purpose computing environment fulfilling many needs, any results garnered from it may generalize to other systems. In contrast, many high-performance graphical interfaces are so customized to particular applications that generalizations would be difficult to make and support.

Second, if UNIX findings could not be generalized, they would still be valuable in their own right. Although old, UNIX is far from dying. Rather, it is being rapidly disseminated as a de facto open system standard on diverse machines, running the gamut from mainframes to workstations and personal computers. Even users of graphical direct-manipulation interfaces thirst for UNIX, as illustrated by Apple's Macintosh/UNIX fusion. Vendors are now trying to modernize UNIX by embedding it within a window environment. The Sun workstation, for example, has a suite of window-based front ends to popular UNIX facilities, including the shell, debugger, mail system, terminal emulator, and so on (Sun Microsystems, 1986).

Another appeal of UNIX to researchers is that it has already been studied extensively. There is probably more knowledge and raw data on UNIX usage than any other computer system. The scientific process is more easily realized; other UNIX studies can be replicated; and previous findings can be built upon.

Finally, a pragmatic advantage of studying UNIX is that it is relatively easy to do, since large groups of diverse people use it at many different sites. Although generally perceived to be expert-oriented, there is no question that a significant number of non-programmers with widely varying needs also harness its powers. UNIX is often the standard system employed by research institutions. The benevolent setting allows large-scale realistic studies that span user categories. At the University of Calgary, for example, UNIX is used heavily in the Department of Computer Science by people with quite diverse programming skills and personal requirements. It is also available to people in several non-computer departments. The academic setting not only provides a captive audience, but also encourages participation — bureaucratic procedures are in place for conscripting subjects for study.

## 3 Data collection for the current study

In this study, command-line data was collected from users of the UNIX csh command interpreter (Joy, 1980). The selection and grouping of subjects, and the method of data collection, are described below.

Subjects. The subjects were 168 unpaid volunteers. All were either students or employees of the University of Calgary.

Name	Sample size	Total number of command	Number of command lines excluding errors						
		lines	total	mean	std dev				
Novice Programmers	55	77423	73288	1333	819.8				
Experienced Programmers	36	74906	70234	1950	1276.0				
Computer Scientists	52	125691	119557	2299	2022.9				
Non-Programmers	25	25608	24657	986	1155.6				
Total	168	303628	287736	1712	1498.8				

Table 1: Sample group sizes and statistics of the command lines recorded

Subject use. Four target groups were identified, representing a total of 168 male and female users with a wide cross-section of computer experience and needs. Salient features of each group are described below, while the sample sizes (the number of people observed) are indicated in Table 1.

Novice Programmers. Conscripted from an introductory Pascal course, these had little or no previous exposure to programming, operating systems, or UNIX-like command-based interfaces. Such subjects spent most of their computer time learning how to program and use the basic system facilities.

Experienced Programmers. Members were senior Computer Science undergraduates, expected to have a fair knowledge of programming languages and the UNIX environment. As well as coding, word processing, and employing more advanced UNIX facilities to fulfill course requirements, such subjects also used the system for social and exploratory purposes.

Computer Scientists. This group, comprised of faculty, graduates and researchers from the Department of Computer Science, had varying experience with UNIX, although all were experts with computers in general. Tasks performed were less predictable and more varied than other groups, spanning advanced program development, research investigations, social communication, maintaining databases, word-processing, satisfying personal requirements, and so on.

Non-programmers. Word-processing and document preparation was the dominant activity of this group, made up of office staff and members of the Faculty of Environmental Design. Little program development occurred — tasks were usually performed with existing application packages. Knowledge of UNIX was the minimum necessary to get the job done.

Since users were assigned to subject groups only through their membership in identifiable user groups (eg Computer Science graduate students), their placement in the categories above cannot be considered strictly rigorous. Although it is assumed that they generally follow their group stereotype, uniform behaviour is not expected.

Instructions to subjects. As part of the solicitation process, subjects were informed verbally or by letter that:

- data on their normal UNIX use would be monitored and collected at the command line level only;
- the data collected would be kept confidential;
- any public reference or dissemination of the data and derived results would guarantee anonymity,
   unless explicit permission was given by the subject to do otherwise;
- at any time during the study period the subject could request that data collection stop immediately;
- there would be no noticeable degrading of system performance;
- if requested, data collected from a subject would be made available to him or her.

Subjects did not require nor did they receive any additional instructions during the actual study period. No subject asked to be withdrawn from the experiment, and no-one asked to see their personal data.

Apparatus. A modified csh was installed on three VAX 11/780's located in the Department of Computer Science and one VAX 11/750 in the Faculty of Environmental Design, both within the University of Calgary. Many different terminals were available to participants, most which were traditional character-based VDU's. In addition, Corvus Concept workstations running the Jade Window Manager were available to members of the Experienced and Computer Scientist groups (Greenberg, Peterson and Witten, 1986). This workstation allowed users to create many "virtual terminal" windows, each running csh, on a single screen.

Method. Command-line data was collected continuously for the four months between February 1987 through June 1987 from users of a modified Berkeley 4.2 UNIX csh command interpreter (Joy, 1980). From the user's point of view, monitoring was unobtrusive — the modified command interpreter was identical in all visible respects to the standard version. The total number of command lines recorded per group are listed in Table 1.

Data was collected by recording lines expanded by csh. Instead of collecting data by catching keystrokes as they are entered, the complete line submitted was captured as a chunk after it has been entered and processed by csh. Extra information known to csh was trapped and recorded as well by placing "hooks" within csh. History use and alias use are noted, as well as the current working directory of the user and the error status after execution is attempted. Table 2 lists the trace information annotated by the modified csh. Login sessions are distinguished by a record that notes the start and end time of each session (the 'S' and 'E' fields in the Table). Command lines entered during this period are then listed in following records, each annotated with the current working directory, alias substitution (if any), history use and error status. The final command line accepted by csh, including history expansions and ignoring editing operations that form the line, is recorded in the 'C' field. The 'D' field notes the directory the user was in when the command line was entered. The alias expansion of the line is found in the 'A' field, while the 'H' field indicates whether or not csh history helped form the line. System errors generated by csh are registered in the 'X' field. These annotate eleven categories and many sub-categories of errors. The code definitions are provided in Table 3. The total and average number of command lines collected excluding these

Code	Description	Example
<u> </u>	Login session record	
S	Start time of the login session	S Fri Feb 6 15:54:25 1987
E	End time of the login session	E Fri Feb 6 17:25:01 1987
ш	Command line record	
C	The line entered by the user	C ls –a
D	The current working directory	D /user/greenberg/bin
A	The alias expansion of the previous command (if any)	A ls -a
Н	The line entered had a history expansion in it (T for true or NIL for false)	нт
X	The error detected in the line by ch (if any). A following letter and number code indicates the category and actual error type.	X N 10

Table 2: Trace information annotated by the modified csh

errors are listed in Table 1. Table 4 illustrates an example fragment from an imaginary trace file.

The Appendix at the end of this paper provides summary statistics for each subject, which includes the number of login sessions, the command lines entered, the different commands used, the csh errors noted, the times history was used, and the different directories accessed.

Data Selection. If subjects did not log in at least ten times and execute at least 100 commands during the study period, their data was not considered. By these criteria, 12 of the 180 original participants were rejected.

Motivation. Participants used UNIX as usual. Users were neither encouraged nor expected to alter their everyday use of the system. As subjects had few reminders that their command-line interactions were being traced, they were largely oblivious to the monitoring process.

Confidentiality of data. All subjects were promised confidentiality and anonymous references. To this end, each trace files was modified by replacing the subject's names with x's. For example, if a command line in smith's original trace file was "cd smith", it was changed to "cd xxxxx".

Problems and limitations. Tracing lines expanded by *csh* is a tradeoff between recording too much and too little information. Several problems and limitations of the data collection method employed here are noted below.

First, due to implementation difficulties, the details of history directives were not recorded. The altered *csh* indicates only that history has been used, and notes the command line retrieved through history. It does not record the actual history directive used to produce the modification.

30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	<b>∞</b>	7	တ	51	4	ယ	12	_	0	E	C	В	≻	<u> </u>
0 Missing name for redirect			7 Too many )'s	6 Alias loop			3 Bad! arg selector	2 Subst buf ovflo	1 Modifier failed	0 Bad! modifier	9 Rhs too long	8 No prev lhs		6 No prev sub	5 Bad! form				1 Unmatched (something)	0 Command not found			Can't change to home directory	No home directory	Directory stack empty			No other directory	*chdir didn't work	) unknown error	Error sub-categories, as written to the screen by	Control error		A alias problem	Main error categories
				. **									<del></del> -										<u>ş</u>				<del>'</del>				screen				
61	8	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	57	51	50	49	<b>48</b>	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	<b>4</b> 0	39	38	37	36	္ဌာ	34	ၓၟ	32	31	by Cah	H	Ħ	D	
label not found	end not found	endsw not found	endif not found	then/endif not found	Words not ()'d	Invalid variable	Not in while/foreach	Syntax error	Improper then	Empty if	Too dangerous to alias that	Too many arguments	T∞ few arguments	Missing file name	Missing }	Expression syntax	Mod by 0	Divide by 0	Line overflow	★ terminator not found	Bad: mod in \$	Subscript out of range	No file for \$0	\$< line too long	Ambiguous	Invalid null command	Badly placed ()'s	Ambiguous input redirect	Can't ≮ within ()'s	Ambiguous output redirect		history problem	expression error	directory error	
92	91	8	89	8	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	8	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	2	63	62	•	Z	×	4	•
No such process	No such file or directory	Not super-user	Error 0	No such file or directory	No job control in subshells	No job control in this shell	No job matches pattern	No such job	No previous job	No current job	There are stopped jobs	Arguments should be jobs or process id's	Unknown signal; kill -l lists signals	Bad signal number	Usage: jobs [-l]	Undefined variable	Too many words from	Unmatched '	Pathname too long	Arguments too long	Missing ]	Path error	Unknown user:	Not login shell	Can't from terminal	Can't suspend a login shell (yet)	Bad scaling; did you mean?	Improper or unknown scale factor	No such limit	Improper mask	•	execution error	reg expression error	job error	-
	122	121	120	119	118	117	116	115	114	113	112	111	110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93		×	ß	æ	ļ
	Disk quota exceeded	Broken Pipe	Too many links	Read-only file system	Illegal seek	No space left on device	File too large	Text file busy	Not a typewriter	Too many open files	File table overflow	Invalid argument	Is a directory	Not a directory	No such device	Cross-device link	File exists	Mount device busy	Block device required	Error 14	Permission denied	Not enough core	No more processes	No children	Bad file number	Exec format error	Arguments too long	No such device or address	I/O error	Interrupted system call		system error	syntax error	redirection problem	

Table 3: Error codes annotated by the Unix csh

Line in trace file	Comment
S Fri Feb 20 23:39:46 1987	Session starting time
E Fri Feb 20 23:59:31 1987	Session end time
C who	The line entered to csh
D /user/cpsc500/xxxxxxx	The current directory
A who   more	"who" is an alias for "who   more"
H NIL	History was not used
X NIL	The line did not generate a csh error
C cd ~cpsc500	The line entered to csh
D /user/cpsc500/xxxxxx	The current directory
A cd ~cpsc500; set prompt="\$cwd:t]!>"	"cd" is an alias
H NIL	History was not used
X D 69	A csh error was produced, classified as a directory error (code D). More specifically, an unknown user (code 69) was given in the directory path.
C who	This line was recalled via history (see H)
D /user/cpsc500/xxxxxx	the current directory
A who   more	"who" is an alias for "who   more"
нт	History used
X NIL	The line did not generate a csh error
S Tue Feb 24 23:41:39 1987	A new login session
E NIL	And so on

Table 4: A fragment from an imaginary trace file

unix-data/
README
unix-data/experienced-programmers/
experienced-1 through experienced-36
unix-data/novice-programmers/
novice-1 through novice-52
unix-data/non-programmers/
non-1 through non-24
unix-data/computer-scientists/
scientist-1 through scientist-52
unix-data/show-error-code/
Makefile error-code.c

error-code.h

error-code

Table 5: Directory structure of the data files on tape

Second, and more seriously, not all user activity is captured. Although recording csh lines works well for "batch" style programs that execute and return without user intervention, it does not capture activity within the interactive applications used (eg editors). Interactive information is lost since data is collected from the csh command line only. Also, commands cannot be considered "equal." For example, consider a trace containing only two UNIX commands: ls for listing files; and emacs which invokes a sophisticated interactive editor. Whereas file listing is accomplished almost immediately, an editing session can last for hours. This distinction is not captured here.

Third, the actual processes spawned by the command line are not noted. There are many ways to execute programs in UNIX; directly by name, indirectly through an alias or *csh* variable, or as a suite of programs through a script. Because of this diversity, users can invoke the same program by many different names. For example, *e, emacs* and *ed* may all invoke the same editor. As only the text typed to *csh* is collected, the actual processes executed is left as an educated guess.

Implementation note. Since the source for *csh* contains over 16000 lines of sparsely documented and quite complex code, the task of modifying it was quite difficult. Four months were required to produce an acceptable tested version of *csh* that included a robust monitoring facility, even though the final number of modifications required was relatively small. This time includes the bureaucratic red tape involved with obtaining *csh* source.

## 4 The Data Tape

The enclosed tape was made on a SUN using the UNIX command "tar cbf 126 /dev/rst8". Its contents can be extracted in the usual way. For example, "tar xf /dev/rst8" will extract all the data files, while "tar tf /dev/rst8" will list the tape's contents. The tape has also been read on an Apollo running Unix, using the command "tar xf /dev/rct8".

The tape contains approximately 21 megabytes of data, arranged as files in a hierarchical directory as described in Table 5. The parent directory is called unix-data. The README file contains a brief summary of the tape contents — a hardcopy is included with every tape. The subdirectories experienced-programmers, novice-programmers, non-programmers and computer-scientists contain all the data files, one for each subject. The directory show-error-code contains a C program, called error-code, that converts the letter and number error codes in the X field with their textual equivalent. This program reads the data file from standard input and writes to standard output.

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# Appendix: Summary statistics for each subject

	18 11 1 4 5
novice-1   55   2457   67   213   37     novice-2   118   1267   22   58   0     novice-3   345   2337   26   93   0     novice-4   61   1919   32   123   0     novice-5   62   593   24   67   0     novice-6   74   871   23   44   0     novice-7   94   1039   38   51   98     novice-8   92   1822   13   19   0     novice-9   44   853   26   63   0     novice-10   64   1464   42   40   0     novice-11   59   256   26   21   2     novice-12   438   2436   19   210   0     novice-13   49   652   20   49   0     novice-14   156   3194   67   208   0     novice-15   79   1139   14   48   0     novice-16   16   256   12   25   0     novice-17   135   1194   23   59   0     novice-18   46   1088   15   38   0     novice-19   103   3401   59   363   7     novice-20   54   418   18   19   1     novice-21   44   849   22   42   48     novice-22   122   1893   43   51   0     novice-23   90   2138   30   72   0	18 11 1 4 5
novice-2       118       1267       22       58       0         novice-3       345       2337       26       93       0         novice-4       61       1919       32       123       0         novice-5       62       593       24       67       0         novice-6       74       871       23       44       0         novice-7       94       1039       38       51       98         novice-8       92       1822       13       19       0         novice-9       44       853       26       63       0         novice-10       64       1464       42       40       0         novice-11       59       256       26       21       2         novice-12       438       2436       19       210       0         novice-13       49       652       20       49       0         novice-14       156       3194       67       208       0         novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0	11 1 4 5
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novice-9       44       853       26       63       0         novice-10       64       1464       42       40       0         novice-11       59       256       26       21       2         novice-12       438       2436       19       210       0         novice-13       49       652       20       49       0         novice-14       156       3194       67       208       0         novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0         novice-17       135       1194       23       59       0         novice-18       46       1088       15       38       0         novice-20       54       418       18       19       1         novice-21       44       849       22       42       48         novice-22       122       1893       43       51       0         novice-23       90       2138       30       72       0	3
novice-10       64       1464       42       40       0         novice-11       59       256       26       21       2         novice-12       438       2436       19       210       0         novice-13       49       652       20       49       0         novice-14       156       3194       67       208       0         novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0         novice-17       135       1194       23       59       0         novice-18       46       1088       15       38       0         novice-19       103       3401       59       363       7         novice-20       54       418       18       19       1         novice-21       44       849       22       42       48         novice-22       122       1893       43       51       0         novice-23       90       2138       30       72       0	
novice-11       59       256       26       21       2         novice-12       438       2436       19       210       0         novice-13       49       652       20       49       0         novice-14       156       3194       67       208       0         novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0         novice-17       135       1194       23       59       0         novice-18       46       1088       15       38       0         novice-19       103       3401       59       363       7         novice-20       54       418       18       19       1         novice-21       44       849       22       42       48         novice-22       122       1893       43       51       0         novice-23       90       2138       30       72       0	6
novice-12       438       2436       19       210       0         novice-13       49       652       20       49       0         novice-14       156       3194       67       208       0         novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0         novice-17       135       1194       23       59       0         novice-18       46       1088       15       38       0         novice-19       103       3401       59       363       7         novice-20       54       418       18       19       1         novice-21       44       849       22       42       48         novice-22       122       1893       43       51       0         novice-23       90       2138       30       72       0	3
novice-12       438       2436       19       210       0         novice-13       49       652       20       49       0         novice-14       156       3194       67       208       0         novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0         novice-17       135       1194       23       59       0         novice-18       46       1088       15       38       0         novice-19       103       3401       59       363       7         novice-20       54       418       18       19       1         novice-21       44       849       22       42       48         novice-22       122       1893       43       51       0         novice-23       90       2138       30       72       0	
novice-13       49       652       20       49       0         novice-14       156       3194       67       208       0         novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0         novice-17       135       1194       23       59       0         novice-18       46       1088       15       38       0         novice-19       103       3401       59       363       7         novice-20       54       418       18       19       1         novice-21       44       849       22       42       48         novice-22       122       1893       43       51       0         novice-23       90       2138       30       72       0	1
novice-14       156       3194       67       208       0         novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0         novice-17       135       1194       23       59       0         novice-18       46       1088       15       38       0         novice-19       103       3401       59       363       7         novice-20       54       418       18       19       1         novice-21       44       849       22       42       48         novice-22       122       1893       43       51       0         novice-23       90       2138       30       72       0	2
novice-15       79       1139       14       48       0         novice-16       16       256       12       25       0         novice-17       135       1194       23       59       0         novice-18       46       1088       15       38       0         novice-19       103       3401       59       363       7         novice-20       54       418       18       19       1         novice-21       44       849       22       42       48         novice-22       122       1893       43       51       0         novice-23       90       2138       30       72       0	2
novice-16     16     256     12     25     0       novice-17     135     1194     23     59     0       novice-18     46     1088     15     38     0       novice-19     103     3401     59     363     7       novice-20     54     418     18     19     1       novice-21     44     849     22     42     48       novice-22     122     1893     43     51     0       novice-23     90     2138     30     72     0	27
novice-17     135     1194     23     59     0       novice-18     46     1088     15     38     0       novice-19     103     3401     59     363     7       novice-20     54     418     18     19     1       novice-21     44     849     22     42     48       novice-22     122     1893     43     51     0       novice-23     90     2138     30     72     0	1
novice-17     135     1194     23     59     0       novice-18     46     1088     15     38     0       novice-19     103     3401     59     363     7       novice-20     54     418     18     19     1       novice-21     44     849     22     42     48       novice-22     122     1893     43     51     0       novice-23     90     2138     30     72     0	
novice-18     46     1088     15     38     0       novice-19     103     3401     59     363     7       novice-20     54     418     18     19     1       novice-21     44     849     22     42     48       novice-22     122     1893     43     51     0       novice-23     90     2138     30     72     0	1
novice-19     103     3401     59     363     7       novice-20     54     418     18     19     1       novice-21     44     849     22     42     48       novice-22     122     1893     43     51     0       novice-23     90     2138     30     72     0	1
novice-20     54     418     18     19     1       novice-21     44     849     22     42     48       novice-22     122     1893     43     51     0       novice-23     90     2138     30     72     0	1
novice-21     44     849     22     42     48       novice-22     122     1893     43     51     0       novice-23     90     2138     30     72     0	4
novice-22 122 1893 43 51 0 novice-23 90 2138 30 72 0	2
novice-22 122 1893 43 51 0 novice-23 90 2138 30 72 0	•
novice-23 90 2138 30 72 0	3
	3
novice-24 80 849 20 55 U	2 3
novice-25 169 2066 13 217 0	
novice-25 169 2066 13 217 0	1
novice-26 87 1120 19 60 0	1
novice-27 71 1195 25 63 1	9
novice-28 123 2221 31 120 0	1
novice-29 94 1230 14 44 0	3
novice-30 78 946 20 28 0	3
20 20 20	
novice-31 64 2073 27 102 0	7
novice-32 51 385 20 37 0	3
novice-33 199 3127 31 106 0	6
novice-34 123 1276 25 46 4	1
novice-35 90 1444 22 54 0	6
	Ĭ
novice-36 141 3213 55 137 0	5
novice-37 88 1949 36 57 0	32
novice-38 109 839 12 17 0	
novice-39 74 1107 34 51 0	
novice-40 58 967 17 24 0	2 3

Novice	Login	Total	Different	Errors	Times	Different
subject	sessions	command	commands	noted	history	directories
number		lines		by csh	was used	used
novice-41	86	2317	15	51	0	1
novice-42	92	1068	31	33	Ö	3
novice-43	33	608	18	26	0	1
novice-44	59	1277	14	40	0	2
novice-45	54	651	17	16	0	1
novice-46	276	4163	120	372	112	58
novice-47	56	1316	19	78	0	3
novice-48	23	269	12	9	0	1
novice-49	23	723	20	31	0	1
novice-50	48	985	33	92	0	3
novice-51	42	480	20	20	0	2
novice-52	69	650	22	38	0	3
novice-53	98	1028	34	41	0	1
novice-54	38	683	19	56	0	10
novice-55	62	1662	25	40	6	2
experienced-1	137	3714	74	298	174	58
experienced-2	25	219	28	11	6	8
experienced-3	28	915	51	42	88	16
experienced-4	151	3776	59	123	2	29
experienced-5	283	4015	78	222	35	44
experienced-6	53	757	56	32	0	17
experienced-7	189	5857	139	612	67	100
experienced-8	134	2930	74	265	67	54
experienced-9 experienced-10	99 <b>2</b> 5	2351 446	99 <b>4</b> 5	136 26	86 1	25
experienced-10	20	440	40	20	1	18
experienced-11	98	1456	43	86	21	48
experienced-12	66	1763	70	92	28	17
experienced-13	49	1109	60	160	25	30
experienced-14	103	1810	60	153	23	27
experienced-15	14	225	21	12	0	32
experienced-16	41	795	33	22	24	22
experienced-17	85	2343	67	144	0	32
experienced-18	25	575	27	21	5	9
experienced-19	122	1807	84	88	163	20
experienced-20	180	4556	79	370	435	44
experienced-21	100	2394	76	83	157	54
experienced-22	149	2814	67	122	325	18
experienced-23	95	2306	70	119	189	18
experienced-24	114	3331	132	228	222	62
experienced-25	71	1465	63	89	11	19
experienced-26	30	679	33	66	0	22
experienced-27	219	1693	70	54	77	43
experienced-28	440	3893	93	60	77 78	43 24
experienced-29	71	2214	59	133	59	67
experienced-30	130	2028	64	110	82	18
evherienced-90	190	4046	04	110	52	18

Novice	Login	Total	Different	Errors	Times	Different
subject	sessions	command	commands	noted	history	directories
number		lines		by csh	was used	used
experienced-31	68	683	82	38	19	40
experienced-32	65	974	72	87	47	32
experienced-32	59	1292	55	65	83	14
experienced-34	116	1869	59	218	206	15
experienced-35	165	4272	77	169	28	40
experienced-00	100	4212	••	103	20	40
experienced-36	60	1580	70	116	56	54
scientist-1	165	1856	105	111	54	43
scientist-2	198	2954	87	149	236	37
scientist-3	133	978	38	69	1	6
scientist-4	238	4507	112	320	178	114
scientist-5	197	1563	77	78	18	13
scientist-6	145	1103	61	49	33	46
scientist-7	13	366	49	28	0	25
scientist-8	61	842	39	51	0	5
scientist-9	256	4067	89	65	224	42
scientist-10	129	2024	63	120	77	96
Scientisis-10	143	2024	00	120	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	<b>30</b>
scientist-11	38	205	24	13	0	1
scientist-12	105	2499	117	<b>52</b>	53	63
scientist-13	108	3593	45	118	357	25
scientist-14	202	3433	109	183	23	83
scientist-15	161	1429	94	81	200	30
scientist-16	74	326	31	29	0	5
scientist-17	95	569	33	38	0	1
scientist-18	144	2831	71	112	106	74
scientist-19	189	5584	65	240	6	62
scientist-20	225	2697	112	189	74	52
scientist-21	81	1762	82	134	50	102
scientist-22	132	750	45	39	0	102
scientist-23	324	3360	91	135	52	48
scientist-24	72	1494	41	55	0	5
scientist-25	415	3508	112	122	7	113
					•	110
scientist-26	123	983	65	70	0	24
scientist-27	111	3817	97	85	102	79
scientist-28	111	765	64	26	20	17
scientist-29	134	2683	60	243	20	61
scientist-30	180	2129	77	123	186	56
scientist-31	65	250	90	90	^	
scientist-32	78		20 26	20	9	3
scientist-32	76 24	601 325	36 16	20	0	9
scientist-34	24 204		16	12	0	3
scientist-35	204 80	2639 1040	61	88	15	50
PC16119196-90	80	1049	46	29	23	22

Novice	Login	Total	Different	Errors	Times	Different
subject	sessions	command	commands	noted	history	directories
number		lines	!	by csh	was used	used
scientist-36	275	12056	181	566	488	202
scientist-37	121	4187	61	83	121	64
scientist-38	131	3775	92	168	48	113
scientist-39	119	1753	76	77	173	40
scientist-40	348	4605	66	98	0	42
scientist-41	204	2037	49	36	0	5
scientist-42	298	6068	133	644	6	158
scientist-43	108	3106	86	101	0	37
scientist-44	72	1543	62	84	12	16
scientist-45	<b>4</b> 0	862	76	59	17	17
					•	
scientist-46	294	2551	92	110	80	89
scientist-47	75	1229	67	81	9	61
scientist-48	76	819	27	43	0	2
scientist-49	105	1448	108	97	138	46
scientist-50	138	1496	75	225	219	18
					_	
scientist-51	74	910	43	67	0	51
scientist-52	263	7705	121	299	231	93
	05	1.000	21	<b>F</b> 0	•	_
non-progs-1	95 53	1622	61	59	0	7
non-progs-2	85	454 1265	16 38	15 15	0 9	2 7
non-progs-3 non-progs-4	133	5050	70	161	18	89
non-progs-5	133 77	244	8	101	0	1
non-proga-o	••	211	•	11	J	•
non-progs-6	23	177	17	7	0	2
non-progs-7	80	1231	53	5 <b>4</b>	3	9
non-progs-8	23	239	32	13	28	14
non-progs-9	73	357	34	23	4	3
non-progs-10	32	495	36	20	0	21
			_		•	
non-progs-11	281	1848	27	61	0	17
non-progs-12	24	216	19	26	0	4
non-progs-13	30	487	10	5	0	1
non-progs-14	17	201	9	4	1	3
non-progs-15	78	571	15	28	0	2
non-progs-16	46	821	32	26	18	11
non-progs-17	61	848	19	65	0	1
non-progs-18	97	1403	22	64	0	2
non-progs-19	77	175	15	7	0	2
non-progs-20	137	4042	81	124	165	30
non mro 04	0.5	100	-	_	•	.
non-progs-21	25 151	132	5	7	0	1
non-progs-22	151	1567	39 47	56	48	8
non-progs-23	89 25	1294	47 05	48	0	5
non-progs-24	35 76	542	25	34	0	1
non-progs-25	76	327	9	18	3	1

There are approximately 21 megs of data on this tage, arranged as follows in a single directory called unix-data:

data on this tape is part of the paper:

Greenberg, Saul (1998) "Using Unix: Collected traces from 168 users" Research Report 88/333/45, Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

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1) The pager above is referenced as the source of the data

2) Published excerpts of the traces keep the subject's identity

You will not pass on this data to other researchers without including this notice (and the companion paper).

I would also appreciate receiving a note of the work you are doing, and a draft or final copy of your report. You can reach me through: Seul Greenberg
Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary,
Calgary, Alberta, CAMADA 72% 184.

This tape was made on a SUW with the command: "tar chf 126 /der You can extract the contents in the usual way. For example, "tar xf /dev/rst6" will extract all the data, while "tar xf /dev/rst6" will list the files on the tape. The tape has also been read on an Apollo running Unix, using the command "tar xf /dev/rst8". "tar cbf 126 /dev/rst8"

unix-data/computer-scientists/
scientist-1 scientis
scientist-5 scientis
scientist-9 scientis
scientist-13 scientis unix-data/novice-1 novice-1 novice-1 novice-1 novice-3 novice-11 novice-21 novice-23 novice-23 novice-3 novice-41 novice-40 novice-69 novice-53 unix-data/ unix-data/show-error-code/ READINE Makefile scientist-29
scientist-33
scientist-37
scientist-41
scientist-45
scientist-49 non-1 non-5 non-9 non-13 non-17 non-21 scientist-21 scientist-25 experienced-29 experienced-33 error-code.c scientist-2
scientist-10
scientist-11
scientist-14
scientist-12
scientist-26
scientist-26
scientist-30
scientist-30
scientist-38
scientist-38
scientist-38
scientist-38
scientist-38
scientist-38
scientist-42
scientist-42 novice-2 novice-6 novice-10 novice-11 novice-26 novice-27 novice-30 novice-34 novice-34 novice-42 novice-54 novice-54 non-2 non-6 non-10 non-14 non-18 non-22 error-code.h scientist-47 scientist-51 scientist-23
scientist-27
scientist-31
scientist-35
scientist-39
scientist-43 novice-3 novice-17 novice-15 novice-15 novice-23 novice-31 novice-31 novice-33 novice-33 novice-33 novice-33 experienced-31 experienced-35 non-3 non-7 non-11 non-15 non-19 experianced-4
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scientist-44
scientist-52 norice-4 norice-18 norice-16 norice-20 norice-20 norice-32 norice-32 norice-44 norice-44 norice-44 non-4 non-8 non-12 non-16 non-20 non-24 non-25