

Implementing a command line thesaurus

Many people make use of `dict` to lookup word definitions. (If this is new to you, try `dict word`). Sometimes what we need instead of a dictionary is a thesaurus. This week's tip demonstrates a script to do just that.

Note: You need `html2text` installed before using this script.

Code Listing 1: `~/bin/thes`

```
#!/bin/sh
#-----
# Command line thesaurus

BROWSER="/usr/bin/lynx -source"
WEBSITE="http://thesaurus.reference.com/search?q=$1"
HTML2TEXT="/usr/bin/html2text -style compact"

if test $1; then
    ${BROWSER} ${WEBSITE} | ${HTML2TEXT} | ${PAGER}
else
    echo "Usage: $0 word"
    exit 1
fi
```

To use this script, name it `thes`, make it executable, and make sure that it's in your `$PATH`. Then, run the script followed by the word you're interested in.

Code Listing 2

```
$ thes word
```

From <http://www.gentoo.org/news/en/gwn/20040531-newsletter.xml>

```
image:rdf newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rdf.png (null)
|
image:rss newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rss.png (null)
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image:Atom newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/atom.png (null)
- Powered by
image:LeopardCMS //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/leopardcms.png (null)
- Running on
image:Gentoo //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/gentoo.png (null)
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image:Valid XHTML1.1 //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/xhtml.png (null)
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image:Valid CSS //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/css.png (null)
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image:buttonmaker //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/buttonmaker.png (null)
```

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