

How to copy file content to clipboard from the command line on Linux desktop

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Question: I have a relatively big text file. I would like to copy the whole file content, and paste it to somewhere else on my Linux desktop. Is it possible to copy the content of a file to clipboard without opening the file?

In X windows system, clipboard is a mechanism for transferring data from one window to another, or sharing data among different applications. Typically you use a mouse to select a text and copy it to clipboard.

However, if you want to copy the whole file content to clipboard without opening it, you can use `xclip`, which is a command line interface to clipboard. The `xclip` command can read text directly from standard input, and copy it to clipboard.

Install xclip on Linux

To install `xclip` on Ubuntu, Debian or Linux Mint:

```
$ sudo apt-get install xclip
```

To install `xclip` on Fedora or RHEL:

```
$ sudo yum install xclip
```

To install `xclip` on CentOS, first [enable Repoforge repository](#), and then run:

```
$ sudo yum install xclip
```

Copy File Content to Clipboard using Xclip

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To copy the content of a file to clipboard, simply run the following command.

```
$ cat input.txt | xclip -i
```

Once the file content is copied to clipboard, you can paste it into another window or application simply by clicking on mouse middle-button.