

Ruby one-liner to count logins in Linux last command

count logins in last command

If you want to take the output of the Linux `last` command, and get a count of how many times each user connected to your server, this script will do.

sample input

```
tommytrojan      sshd          abc.def Fri May 15 13:30 - 13:30  (00:00)joebruin      sshd
```

sample output

```
Total entries: 4joebruin = 2janebruin = 1tommytrojan = 1
```

script and explanation

```
|last| ruby -ane 'BEGIN{rows=0; a={}}; next if $F[0].nil?; a[$F[0]] ||=0; a[$F[0]] += 1; rows += 1; END{puts "Total entries: #{rows}" ; a.sort_by{|k,v| v}.reverse.each{|k,v| puts "#{k} = #{v}" } }'
```

- `ruby -e` executes the following script; `-n` loops; and `-a` splits input and outputs into `$F` array
- `BEGIN` block is necessary to initialize row count and a hash, where we'll store counts
- `next if $F[0].nil?`; is necessary, because at least one of our input lines had no user field.
- `$F[0]` gives us first field in input line.
- `a[$F[0]] ||=0`; initializes hash location to 0 if it hasn't been used yet
- `a[$F[0]] += 1`; increments user access count in hash
- `END` block lets us print our report.
- `a.sort_by{|k,v| v}` does a sort by the counts, not by the user names. `a.sort` would have been enough if we just wanted it sorted by the key, ie: usernames.
- `reverse.each{|k,v| puts "#{k} = #{v}" }` reverses the sort to get descending order, and outputs the key (k) and value(v), e.g. username = access count.

useful links

- <http://benoithamelin.tumblr.com/ruby1line>
- http://www.tutorialspoint.com/ruby/ruby_predefined_variables.htm

NOTE: My colleague did the same thing in this shell script. And his script includes the line with the missing user field.

```
| last | cut -d" " -f1 | sort | uniq -c | awk '{print $1" " $2}' | sort -nr |
```

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