awk

JULIA EVANS
@b0rk

awk is a tiny programming language for manipulating columns of data

I only know how to do 2 things with awk but it's still useful!

---

basic awk program structure

```
BEGIN { ... }
CONDITION {action}
CONDITION {action}
END {...}
```

do action on lines matching CONDITION

---

extract a column of text with awk

```
awk -F, '{print $5}'
```

column separator

single quotes!

print the 5th column

this is 99% of what I do with awk
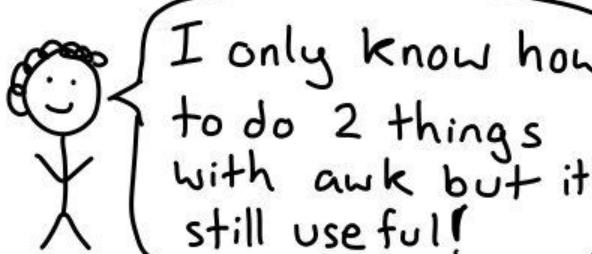
SO MANY unix commands print columns of text (ps! ls!)

so being able to get the column you want with awk is GREAT

A few more awk programs →

---
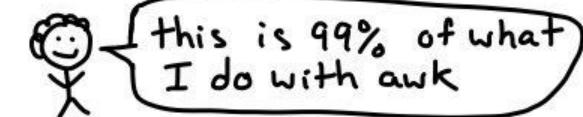
sum the numbers in the 3rd column

action

```
{s += $3}
END {print s}
```

at the end, print the sum!

---

print every line over 80 characters

```
length($0) > 80
```

condition

(there's an implicit {print} as the action)