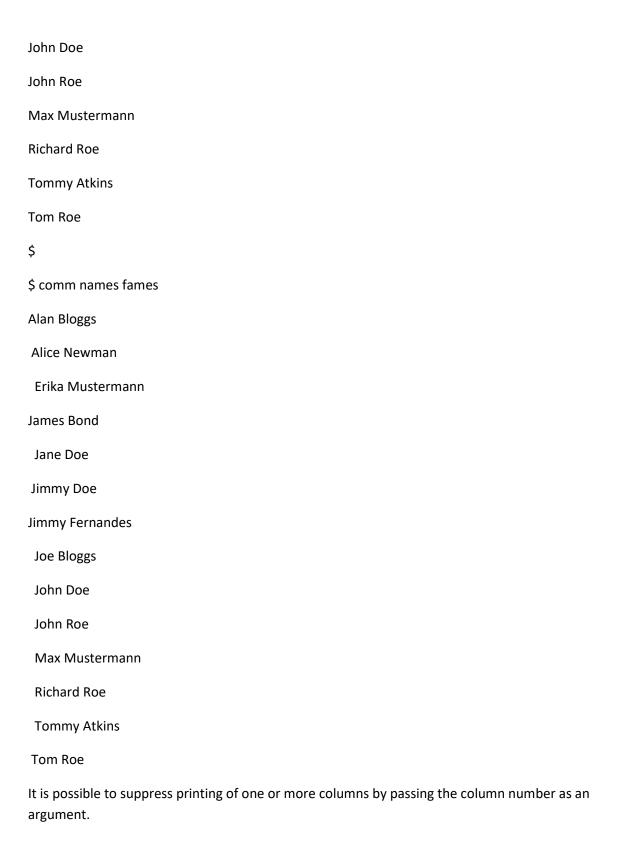Comm Command in Linux

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1.0 comm

The comm command compares two sorted files and gives output in three columns. The first column has lines which are present only in the first file. The second column contains lines which are present only in the second file. The third column gives the lines which are common to both files. For example,

$ cat names

Alan Bloggs

Erika Mustermann

James Bond

Jane Doe

Jimmy Fernandes

Joe Bloggs

John Doe

John Roe

Max Mustermann

Richard Roe

Tommy Atkins

$

$ cat fames

Alice Newman

Erika Mustermann

Jane Doe

Jimmy Doe

Joe Bloggs

John Doe

John Roe

Max Mustermann

Richard Roe

Tommy Atkins

Tom Roe

$

$ comm names fames

Alan Bloggs

 Alice Newman

  Erika Mustermann

James Bond

 Jane Doe

 Jimmy Doe

Jimmy Fernandes

 Joe Bloggs

 John Doe

 John Roe

 Max Mustermann

 Richard Roe

 Tommy Atkins

 Tom Roe

It is possible to suppress printing of one or more columns by passing the column number as an argument.

$ # Suppress printing of the first column

```
$ comm -1 names fames

Alice Newman

 Erika Mustermann

 Jane Doe

Jimmy Doe

 Joe Bloggs

 John Doe

 John Roe

 Max Mustermann

 Richard Roe

 Tommy Atkins

Tom Roe

$

$ # Suppress printing of the first and second columns

$ comm -12 names fames

Erika Mustermann

Jane Doe

Joe Bloggs

John Doe

John Roe

Max Mustermann

Richard Roe

Tommy Atkins
```