

Clean up Linux config files

Linux is typically documented by including numerous comments in the configuration files.

While this is handy, there may be occasions when you just want a clean config file showing only the actual settings and no comments. Typically you would do this to save storage space on your hard drive or just to make the file more readily readable.

I normally copy the original config file to a name like config.orig and save it for reference. This also provides a handy backup if I totally misconfigure a file as I have a backup of the original file.

Then I run the following two commands in Vi to clean up the original file:

```
:g/^#/d      ;Delete pattern, use # to delete comments
```

```
:g/^$/d      ;Delete lines containing space
```

A good example is the squid.conf file which has nearly 5,000 lines in it and can be quite daunting to read.

After cleaning it up, it is only a few dozen lines and easily readable.