

# The Command Line

# **What is it?**

A way to manipulate and interact with your computer

It's entirely text-based

Not the G.U.I (Graphical User Interface) style!

## Why use it?

- It's (eventually) much faster
- It's automatable and flexible
- No interruptions
- It gives us what we expect
- Sometimes it is the only way
  - Command Line Interaction (C.L.I.)
  - Web servers

## How do we use it?

Well, let's talk about how a computer actually works...

But, basically we interact with a **Shell**

We will be using the **Bash Shell**

# The Bash Shell?

- Bash is a regular program on your computer
- It was created to take commands from you
  - We talk to it using the Bash Shell Language
- When I say "shell", it's just that program we were talking about before
  - It's an interface to interact with other programs

# Are there other shells?

Yes!

- Bash "Bourne Again shell"
- C shell
- Z shell "zsh"
- Korn shell
- Bourne shell
- Debian's Almquist shell "dash"

**What can you do with it?**

Anything!

It is text-only "console" or "terminal"

## Some examples

- Run programs to make all sorts of changes
- Editing files and images
- Converting files between types
- Creating back-ups
- Making and copying files
- Downloading, compiling, and running programs
- ...



# Has anyone seen Star Wars?

```
telnet towel.blinkenlights.nl
```

## How do you work with it?

- Non-interactively
  - Running scripts. We are already doing this!
- Interactively
  - Opening up a REPL (e.g. iTerm2)

**Let's get into it!**

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We are going to do some day to day things now

## Some Utilities

- Opening files
- Who am I?
- Where am I?
- Show me everything that is running
- Show me the manual





## A few customizations...

Let's make our terminal a little easier to use

Add this into the bottom of your `~/ .bash_profile`

```
export PS1="\W $ "
```

```
alias manual="man"
```



# Common Commands

```
pwd          # Where am I?  
  
ls           # List all files in the current directory  
  
cd           # Change Directories  
  
mkdir        # Make a Directory  
  
rmdir        # Remove an empty directory  
  
rm           # Remove a file or a directory
```

# Common Commands

```
touch      # Create a file

open       # Open a file in the default application

clear      # Clear your screen

cat        # Print the contents of a file

man        # Show the manual for a given command

say        # Make your computer talk
```

**We are going to be doing this a lot...**

# Resources

- [Watch these Code Academy videos](#)
- Read these
  - [Quick Left's Tutorials](#) - start from the bottom!
  - [Learn CLI the Hard Way](#)
- Some other useful links
  - [40 Terminal Tricks and Tips](#)
  - [25 Useful Find Examples](#)
  - [Terminal Cheatsheet](#)

## More Resources

- [Read through this](#)
- Play around with [this](#)
- Another little [cheatsheet](#)

# Homework

- The Simpsons
- If you would like more practice:
  - Star Wars
  - My Favourite Things
  - Find out who did it!
    - Let us know if you find the person!