# Server/Linux FAQ

## Server Information

- The server you are connecting to is running a Linux operating system.

- Your host name will be formatted as follows:
  studentNumber@csserver.ucd.ie

- When you enter your password, please note that nothing will show up on the screen for security but your password is still being typed, it is just hidden.

## Directories and Permissions

### Your home directory

- To get to your home directory (and get back to it if you're lost!):

  **cd** ˜

### sudo

- 'sudo' stands for 'superuser do'.

- Putting 'sudo' before a command allows you to execute the command with the privileges of another user, by default this is the 'superuser' otherwise known as the system administrator.

- Note that on the server, you do not have superuser access meaning that you will not be permitted to use 'sudo'. This means that you may not be allowed to install software, create users or make directories/write to files/edit files outside of your home directory. If you are getting a 'permission denied' error, check that you have not wandered into the incorrect directory.

- You will be able to use 'sudo' on your local machine provided you are the administrator so you can install whatever you like **but use this command with care!** The system will trust that you know what you are doing. If you find yourself needing to use 'sudo' ask yourself **why**.

- In the immortal words of the Linux shell:

  It usually boils down to these three things:

  #1) Respect the privacy of others.
  #2) Think before you type.
  #3) With great power comes great responsibility.

## Text Editors

There are a number of text editors in Linux. A couple of good ones are 'nano' and 'vi'.

### nano

- Probably the easiest to use. To use nano to create a text file simple write the following:

  nano filename.txt

- This will open up the text editor.

- On the bottom of the screen, you will see commands to perform various operations, for instance 'ctrl-x' to exit.

### vi

- Using vi, (sometimes you'll hear it referred to as *vim* which is a very similar editor), is a little bit trickier than nano however many people really like vi as it can be very versatile so give it a try to see if it suits you.

- There are different modes in vi, 'command' and 'insert' mode. Have a look at the manual by typing 'man vi' for a detailed explanation. There are also a number of cheatsheets available online.

- Here's a nice online **interactive tutorial** for helping to learn vi commands.

- These commands come with practice. It is normal to get 'stuck' in vi the first time you use it, it is sometimes useful to have the commands to hand when you first start using it.