

# 10 minutes to command line usage

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## What is the terminal?

- Interface to your software
- Direct access to functions
- Light, quick, memory efficient
- Tightly defined scope
- Apps are free (install with a package manager)

## Where is it?

- Windows:
  - CMD (builtin)
  - Powershell (builtin)
  - Ubuntu terminal
    - `wsl --install` (Turn Windows features on or off -> Hyper-V)
- Linux:
  - terminal (built in)

## Basic usage

Terminal commands *usually* take the form of:

`<application> <application-function> -<letter-parameter> --<word parameter> <argument1>..<argumentN>`

e.g. ``git clone git@github.com:DanielJohnHarty/cat_snapper.git``

## Take a tour

- Install if necessary then start your command line
- You're in a directory in your file system. Use `pwd` to know where you're at
- Look around:
  - Use `ls` to check what's in this directory.
  - Try again with `ls -l`. What's different?
  - Try `ls <insert a different directory path>`
- Move around your file system:
  - Use `cd <directory path>` to move around the filesystem

Note: Pressing the `tab` key enables smart auto-complete on most modern terminals

- Create a directory with `mkdir <path to directory>`
- Create a file with `touch <path to file>`

## Getting help

It's rare that a CLI application does not have a guide available. Accessing the manual can take different forms:

- `<application> -h`
- `<application> <application-function> -h`
- `<application> --help`
- `<application> <application-function> --help`
- `man <application>`

## Important to know!

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- There are many references available online too. Use a cheat-sheet!
- Windows and Linux CLI application may be different or not exist on both. Use the internet to find the name of the equivalent on your OS
- [Windows package manager](#) offers a huge number of CLI applications. Check them out.