

# Basic Terminal Commands

## Navigating

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| cd [folder] | change <b>d</b> irectory to [folder]   |
| cd ..       | change to the parent directory; “..” stands for parent directory   |
| cd ~        | change to the home directory; “~” is a shortcut for home   |
| cd /        | change to the root directory; “/” stands for root  |
| ls          | display a short <b>l</b> ist of the files and folders in the current directory   |
| ls -a       | display a short list of <b>a</b> ll of the files and folders in the current directory (includes hidden files/folders)  |
| ls -l       | display a <b>l</b> ong list of the files and folders in the current directory (the long list simply displays more information about each file/folder in the current directory than the short list) |
| pwd         | <b>p</b> rint the <b>w</b> orking (current) <b>d</b> irectory path   |

## Creating, Copying, and Moving

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| touch [filename]    | create a file inside the current directory named [filename]; if the file already exists then “touch” will update the updated at timestamp on the file                 |
| mkdir [foldername]  | <b>m</b> ake a new <b>d</b> irectory named [foldername]   |
| cp [file] [dir]     | <b>c</b> opy the file named [file] into the directory named [dir]   |
| mv [file] [newpath] | <b>m</b> ove a file named [file] to the new path specified [newpath]; mv can be used to rename a file as well if the [newpath] is a filename (with no “/” delimiters) |

Remember that all terminal files typically follow the same pattern:

**[command] [modifier] [parameter(s)]**

e.g **ls -l /Users** applies the -l (long) modifier to the ls command and passes the /Users parameter to the command. This will give a long listing of the files/folders in the /Users directory.

## Other Useful Commands

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| rm [file]        | <b>r</b> emoves the file named [file] from the current directory                                     |
| rm -R [dir]      | remove a directory named [dir] as well as all of the files inside of it; -R stands for "recursively" |
| whatis [command] | provides a short description of [command]  |

## Dangerous Commands

|              |   |
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| rm -Rf [dir] | removes a directory and all of its contents <b>r</b> ecursively and <b>f</b> orcefully (you will not be asked for a yes or no confirmation before deleting) |
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