Cheatsheets / Learn the Command Line

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Navigating the File System

Print Working Directory pwd

The shell command pwd displays the file path from the root directory to the current working directory.

Make Directory mkdir

The shell command mkdir can be used to make a new directory in the filesystem according to its argument. If a file path is given, the new directory will be placed at the end. Otherwise, it will create a new directory in the current working directory with the name given.

List 1s

The shell command 1s is used to list the contents of directories. If no arguments are given, it will list the contents of the current working directory.

cd Change Directory

The shell command Cd can be used to move throughout the filesystem of a computer. It accepts a variety of arguments:

- Full file paths.
- Names of children of the current directory.
- .. the parent of the current directory.

Filesystem Structure

A computer's filesystem organizes the data stored by a computer, so that it can be easily retrieved by the user. Files are typically represented by a tree-like structure, in which any parent directory can have any number of children.

The *root directory* is then found at the base of the tree

\$ pwd
/Users/sonny/Downloads

\$ mkdir new-directory
\$ ls
old-directory new-directory

\$ ls Desktop
resume.pdf
photo.png

\$ cd some-directory
\$ cd ..

touch Create New File

The shell command touch creates a new file in the current working directory with the name provided.

\$ touch secret-file.txt

The Command Line

The command line allows a user to navigate the filesystem and run built-in programs or custom scripts. In Unix, the command line interface is called Bash, and the shell prompt is the \$.

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