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Basic Unix Shell Commands

The *shell* is the Unix command interpreter used to pass commands to an operating system; so called because it is the part of the operating system that interfaces with the outside world. The following table lists some common Unix shell built-in commands and two editors `emacs` and `vi`. For more shell commands, refer to the [Unix shell command manual pages](#) or a [Unix command line cheat sheet](#).

Command	Description
cat	Concatenate files and print on the standard output.
cd	Change the current working directory.
chmod	Change the permissions mode of a file.
cp	Copy files.
date	Print the date and time.
emacs	Screen-oriented (visual) display editor
grep	Search a file for a pattern.
ls	List status information for files and directory contents.
man	Find and display reference manual pages.
mkdir	Make directories.
more/page	Browse or page through a text file.
mv	Move files.
pwd	The <code>pwd</code> (“print working directory”) tells you where you are in the file system by printing the current working directory.
rm/rmdir	Remove directory entries.
vi	Screen-oriented (visual) display editor

```
Last login: Sat May 27 2017 21:46:16 GMT-0500 (Central Daylight Time) from 134.129.205.200
FreeBSD 7.1-STABLE (CB.VU) #3: Sat May 27 2017 22:07:27 GMT-0500 (Central Daylight Time)
```

```
---- Welcome to cb.vu ---- (start with "help" if you are lost)
```

```
... So the documentary-makers stick with sharks. Generally, their
procedure is to scatter bleeding fish pieces around their boat, so as
to infest the waters. I would estimate that the primary food source of
sharks today is bleeding fish pieces scattered by people making
documentaries. Once the sharks arrive, they are generally fairly
listless. The general shark attitude seems to be: "Oh God, another
documentary." So the divers have to somehow goad them into attacking,
under the guise of Scientific Research. "We know very little about the
effect of electricity on sharks," the narrator will say, in a deeply
scientific voice. "That is why Todd is going to jab this Great White
in the testicles with a cattle prod." The divers keep this kind of
thing up until the shark finally gets irritated and snaps at them, and
then they act as though this was a totally unexpected and very
dangerous development, although clearly it is what they wanted all along.
-- Dave Barry, "The Wonders of Sharks on TV"
```

```
[www@cb.vu] ~>
```

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