**Command Line:**

A command line, or terminal, is a text based interface to the system. You are able to enter commands by typing them on the keyboard and feedback will be given to you similarly as text.

The command line typically presents you with a prompt. As you type, it will be displayed after the prompt. Most of the time you will be issuing commands.

If you're on a Mac then you'll find the program Terminal under Applications -> Utilities. An easy way to get to it is the key combination 'command + space' which will bring up Spotlight, then start typing Terminal and it will soon show up.

If on Linux then you will probably find it in Applications -> System or Applications -> Utilities. Alternatively you may be able to 'right-click' on the desktop and there may be an option 'Open in terminal'.

If you are on Windows and intend to remotely log into another machine then you will need an SSH client. A rather good one is Putty (free) .

**Basic Navigation:**

**pwd**

Print Working Directory - ie. Where are we currently.

**ls**

List the contents of a directory.

**cd**

Change Directories - ie. move to another directory.

**Relative path**

A file or directory location relative to where we currently are in the file system.

**Absolute path**

A file or directory location in relation to the root of the file system.

**More about Files:**

**file**

obtain information about what type of file a file or directory is.

**ls -a**

List the contents of a directory, including hidden files.

**Everything is a file under Linux**

Even directories.

**Linux is an extensionless system**

Files can have any extension they like or none at all.

**Linux is case sensitive**

Beware of silly typos.

**Manual Pages:**

**man <command>**

Look up the manual page for a particular command.

**man -k <search term>**

Do a keyword search for all manual pages containing the given search term.

**/<term>**

Within a manual page, perform a search for 'term'

**n**

After performing a search within a manual page, select the next found item.

**File Manipulation:**

**mkdir**

Make Directory - ie. Create a directory.

**rmdir**

Remove Directory - ie. Delete a directory.

**touch**

Create a blank file.

**cp**

Copy - ie. Copy a file or directory**.**

**mv**

Move - ie. Move a file or directory (can also be used to rename).

**rm**

Remove - ie. Delete a file.

**No undo**

The Linux command line does not have an undo feature. Perform destructive actions carefully.

**Command line options**

Most commands have many useful command line options. Make sure you skim the man page for new commands so you are familiar with what they can do and what is available.