

Appendix C. DOS to Linux Cheat Sheet

Many Linux commands you type at a shell prompt are not that different from the commands you would type either in MS-DOS or in Windows (from the MS-DOS prompt). In fact, some commands are identical.

DOS and Linux Commands

What follows are some common commands used at the MS-DOS prompt in Windows 9x, and in Linux, as well as a basic example of how the command is used at the Linux shell prompt. Note that these commands usually have a number of options. To learn more about each command, read its associated man page (for example, type `man 1s` at the shell prompt to read about the `1s` command).

Table C-1. Similar Commands

Command's Purpose	MS-DOS	Linux	Basic Linux Example
Copies files	copy	cp	<code>cp thisfile.txt /home/thisdirectory</code>
Moves files	move	mv	<code>mv thisfile.txt /home/thisdirectory</code>
Lists files	dir	ls	<code>ls</code>
Clears screen	cls	clear	<code>clear</code>
Closes prompt window	exit	exit	<code>exit</code>
Displays or sets date	date	date	<code>date</code>
Deletes files	del	rm	<code>rm thisfile.txt</code>
"Echoes" output on the screen	echo	echo	<code>echo this message</code>
Edits files with simple text editor	edit	pico [a]	<code>pico thisfile.txt</code>
Compares the contents of files	fc	diff	<code>diff file1 file2</code>
Finds a string of text in a file	find	grep	<code>grep this word or phrase thisfile.txt</code>
Formats a floppy	<code>format a:</code> (if floppy's in A:)	mke2fs (or mformat [b])	<code>/sbin/mke2fs /dev/fd0 (/dev/fd0 is the Linux equivalent of A:)</code>
Displays command help	<code>command /?</code>	man [c]	<code>man command</code>
Creates a directory	mkdir	mkdir	<code>mkdir directory</code>
Screens through a file	more	less [d]	<code>less thisfile.txt</code>

Renames a file	ren	mv	mv <i>thisfile.txt thatfile.txt</i> [e]
Shows your location in the file system	chdir	pwd	pwd
Changes directories with a specified path (<i>absolute path</i>)	cd <i>pathname</i>	cd <i>pathname</i>	cd <i>/directory/directory</i>
Changes directories with a <i>relative path</i>	cd ..	cd ..	cd ..
Displays the time	time	date	date
Shows amount of RAM and use	mem	free	procinfo

Notes:

a. Pico is a simple text editor; other editors you can use in place of **pico** include **emacs** and **vi**.

b. This formats a disk for the DOS filesystem.

c. Or you can use `info` for some commands.

d. You can also another *pager*, called `more`, to scroll through a file a screen at at time.

e. The `mv` command serves double-duty, because it can both move a file and, if you want to rename a file in the same directory, you "move" that file to the same directory with a new name, as in this example.