

Mac Terminal Commands

KEY/COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
Tab	Auto-complete files and folder names
Ctrl + A	Go to the beginning of the line you are currently typing on
Ctrl + E	Go to the end of the line you are currently typing on
Ctrl + U	Clear the line before the cursor
Ctrl + K	Clear the line after the cursor
Ctrl + W	Delete the word before the cursor
Ctrl + T	Swap the last two characters before the cursor
Esc + T	Swap the last two words before the cursor
Ctrl + R	Search through previously used commands
Ctrl + L or Cmd + K	Clears the Screen
Ctrl + C	Kill whatever you are running
Ctrl + D	Exit the current shell
CORE COMMANDS	
cd	Home directory
cd [folder]	Change directory
cd ~	Home directory, e.g. 'cd ~/folder/'
cd /	Root of drive
ls	Short listing
ls -l	Long listing
ls -a	Listing incl. hidden files
ls -lh	Long listing with Human readable file sizes
ls -R	Entire content of folder recursively
sudo [command]	Run command with the security privileges of the superuser (Super User DO)
open [file]	Opens a file
open .	Opens the directory
top	Displays active processes. Press q to quit

KEY/COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
nano [file]	Opens the Terminal it's editor
pico [file]	Opens the Terminal it's editor
q	Exit
clear	Clear screen
COMMAND HISTORY	
history n	Shows the stuff typed – add a number to limit the last n items
ctrl-r	Interactively search through previously typed commands
![value]	Execute the last command typed that starts with 'value'
!!	Execute the last command typed
FILE MANAGEMENT	
touch [file]	Create new file
pwd	Full path to working directory
..	Parent/enclosing directory, e.g.
ls -l ..	Long listing of parent directory
cd ../../	Move 2 levels up
.	Current folder
cat	Concatenate to screen
rm [file]	Remove a file, e.g. rm [file] [file]
rm -i [file]	Remove with confirmation
rm -r [dir]	Remove a directory and contents
rm -f [file]	Force removal without confirmation
rm -i [file]	Will display prompt before
cp [file] [newfile]	Copy file to file
cp [file] [dir]	Copy file to directory
mv [file] [new filename]	Move/Rename, e.g. mv -v [file] [dir]
DIRECTORY MANAGEMENT	
mkdir [dir]	Create new directory
mkdir -p [dir]/[dir]	Create nested directories

KEY/COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
rmdir [dir]	Remove directory (only operates on empty directories)
rm -R [dir]	Remove directory and contents
PIPES (Allows you to Combine Multiple Commands that Generate Output)	
more	Output content delivered in screen-size chunks
> [file]	Push output to file, keep in mind it will get overwritten
>> [file]	Append output to existing file
<	Tell command to read content from a fi
HELP	
[command] -h	Offers help
[command] —help	Offers help
[command] help	Offers help
reset	Resets the terminal display
man [command]	Show the help for ‘command’
whatis [command]	Gives a one-line description of ‘command’