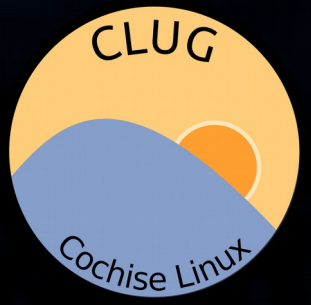
CLUG

Cochise Linux User Group

Get to know your command line!

By: Paul Bernard

CochiseLinuxUsersGroup.github.io



What is the Command Line?

- Simply put, a text-based way to interact with your operating system.
- The terms CLI (Command Line Interface) and Shell are often used to describe the command line.
- You can have a true text-based command line interface or one that is run through the GUI.

Text Based CLI

- More common in server based distributions.
- Can be accessed by ctrl + alt + f2 through ctrl + alt + f6.
- Each function key gives you a different workspace.
- Ctrl + alt + f1 will bring you back to the GUI (if you had one running)

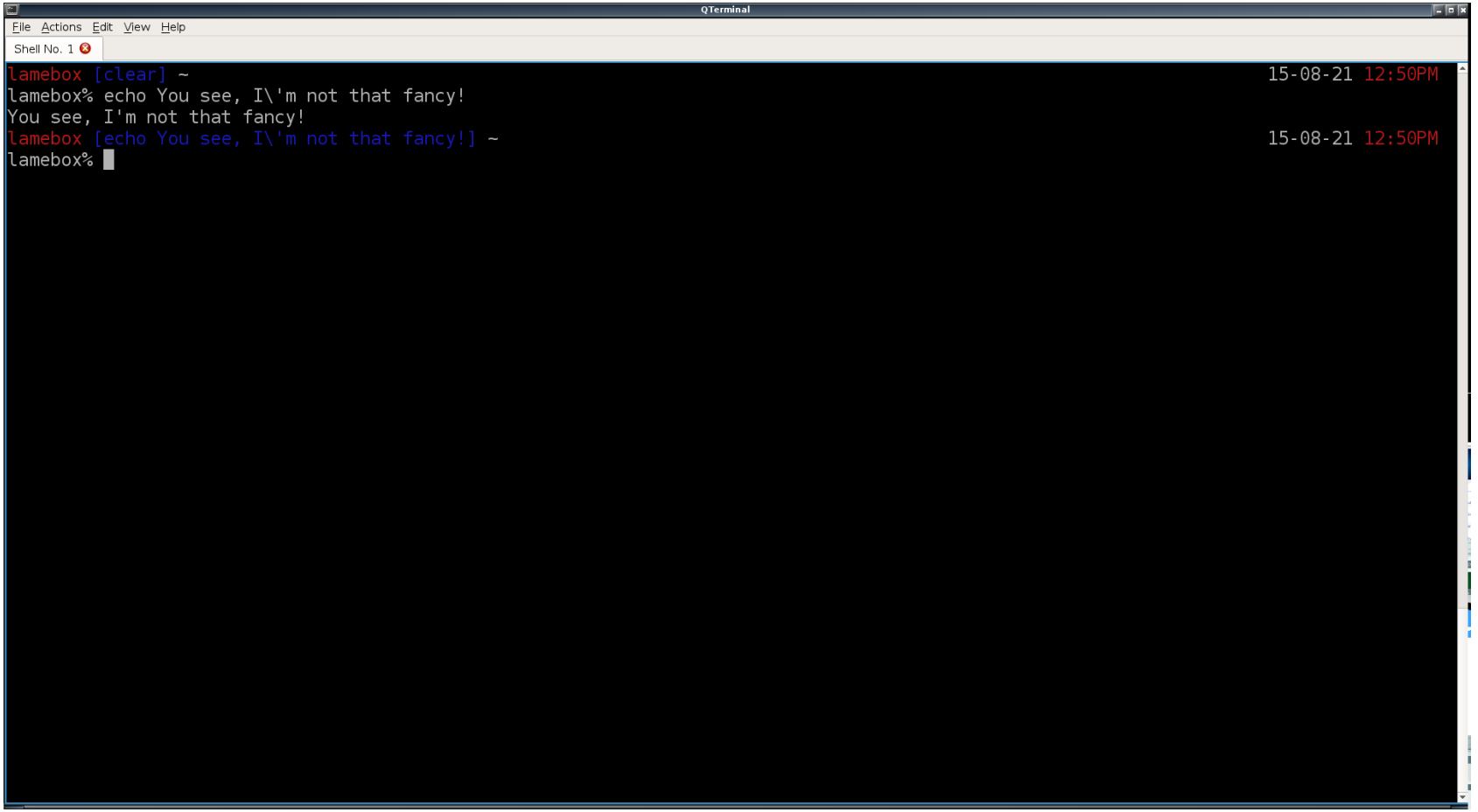
GUI Based Terminals

- This will be the most common way to use the command line.
- Linux distributions have a graphical based terminal installed by default.
- It is generally bundled in the desktop environment and can be accessed through the menu system.

Common GUI Terminals

- Konsole – KDE
- Gnome-Terminal – Gnome
- XFCE terminal – XFCE
- Terminology – Enlightenment
- Xterm – Xorg
- LXTerminal – LXDE
- There are many many more to choose from.

What does this 'Terminal' thing look like?



Basic Commands

- ls – list files in a directory
- cd – change a directory
- cp – copy a file or directory
- mv – move a file or directory
- rm – remove a file or directory
- kill/killall – killing tasks
- sudo – run a command with root privilages.

Why Use the Command Line?

- Can often be a quicker way to complete a task.
- Sometimes you may encounter issues with the GUI that can easily be resolved with the command line.
- Scripting and automation. (Makes life easier)

Some Notable Command Line Programs.

- Irssi – text based irc client (The client of the future).
- vi or vim – text based text editor.
- Elinks – text based web browser.
- Moc – music over console – a text based music player.
- Mutt – text based email client.
- There are many, many more...

Helpful links

- http://files.fosswire.com/2007/08/fwunixref.pdf
- http://vic.gedris.org/Manual-ShellIntro/1.2/ShellIntro.pdf
- https://www.loggly.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Linux-Cheat-Sheet-Sponsored-By-Loggly.pdf
- http://www.reallylinux.com/docs/basic.shtml
- http://www.reallylinux.com/docs/files.shtml

Other Topic Ideas

- Grep, Sed, and Awk – Master Regex
- Not Just Bash – A Linux shell primer
- File System Structure – Where is that one thing?
- Bash Scripting – Automate your life.
- Wifi Hacking – Secure your network by breaking in.
- Steam Life – Why Steam will forever change Linux.
- Command Line 2 – Intermediate commands.
- Other suggestions?

CLUG Info

- Chat almost any time on IRC
  - Server: irc.freenode.net
  - Channel: #cochiselinux
  - If you need help getting an IRC client working / configured, feel free to ask.
- Website
  - CochiseLinuxUsersGroup.github.io
  - We are working on getting a domain that is shorter.
- Mailing List
  - Directions to sign up for the mailing list can be found on the website.

This slideshow can be found at:
http://tinyurl.com/TermBeginners

Questions / Demo