

# CSI 402

Shell – Chapter 5

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# Working with commands

- **Type** – Indicate how a command name is interpreted.
- **which** – Display which executable program will be executed.
- **Help** – get help for shell builtins
- **man** – Display a command's manual page.
- **apropos** – Display a list of appropriate commands
- **info** – Display a command's info entry
- **whatis** – Display a very brief description of a command
- **alias** – Create an alias for a command

# Identifying Commands Using “type”

- You can use the command “type” to examine a command and the type of command the shell will execute. i.e: “type ls” will yield the output:

```
[ anson@Ansons-MacBook-Pro ▶ ~/Documents/github/csi-402 ▶ master • ▶ type ls  
ls is an alias for ls -G
```

# Alias

- We can create our own commands using Alias.
- Imagine performing multiple tasks while working on your projects, and you simply don't have the time to repeatedly type "cd directory1/directory2/..... And so on. Especially when you want to navigate between multiple directories quickly.
- What we can do is use aliases to create commands that will execute functions quickly.
- First we should think of a command name, but before we attempt to create it we should also check if it has been preserved by the system.

# Alias cont.

- Do “type (name of desired variable)” to see if it is already taken, if the output is “type: (name of variable) not found” then we can create the command under that name!
- We’ll let our variable name be called desknave to navigate to the desktop.
- Type “alias desknave=‘cd (absolute path to desktop)’”. For my case, I would write this: ‘alias desknave=‘cd /Users/Anson/Desktop’. Notice how I am using an **absolute path**. It wouldn’t make sense to use a relative path unless we’re assuming we’re always in the relative directory at all times.

- Also note that "alias desknv=' ..... ' , the variable, equal sign, and the first single quote must not have any whitespace between them. Notice how I did not space them. This is important or else you will receive error messages.
- Now that I have my command set up, I can simply just type "desknv" and it will navigate to the desktop whenever I want! And then I can just do "cd -" to return to the last working directory.
- Really, if you think about it, an "alias" is literally just an alias for executing a command. We can think of many things to do, this is just a simple example.

