

# Cheat sheet for command line

Table 1. Basics

Command	Function	Example
echo <parameter>	prints out the parameter in the console	echo "hello world!" or echo \$SomeVariable
up/down arrow	Navigate through previous commands	
cls	will clear the console	
<variable_name> = <value>	Will assign <value> to <variable_name>.	SomeVariable="Hello World"
\$<variable_name>	The way to access a variable	echo \$SomeVariable
<command> --help, --man	Will explain the options for <command>	ls --help
exit	Will quit the console and close it	
env	prints out all variables and their values	

Table 2. Navigation

Command	Function	Example
cd <directory_name>	Will change the current directory to <directory_name>. Literally "Change Directory"	cd /etc
ls	Shows the contents of the current folder. Literally "List"	
pwd	prints out the complete path of the current directory	
~	reserved character that has as a value the path of the home folder	cd ~
/	the top of your directory structure	cd /  rm -rf /  don't use this last one it will delete EVERYTHING from your laptop even the operating system

Command	Function	Example
.	the current folder	cd .  ls .
..	the parent directory	cd ..
pushd <directory_name>	pushes <directory_name> on the stack. Literally push directory	pushd .
popd	pops the top directory from the stack and set the current directory to that directory	

Table 3. File management

Command	Function	Example
mv <file_name> <new_location>	moves <file_name> to <location>. Can also be used to rename a file. Literally "move".	mv HelloWorld.java sourceCode/HelloWorld.java
cp <file_name> <location>	copies <file_name> to <location>. Literally "copy".	cp HelloWorld.java HelloWorld.java.backup
mkdir <directory_name>	Will make a new directory named <directory_name>. Literally "make directory"	mkdir sourceCode
rm <file_name>	Will remove <file_name> from the filesystem. Literally "remove"	rm HelloWorld.java
cat <file_name>	Will print out the contents of a file (the command can do much more). Literally "concatenate"	cat HelloWorld.java
cat > <file_name>	Will let you create a file with some user input. Execute the command. Type in your text. When you're finished press ctrl+d to create the file with your input.	cat > HelloWorld.java
touch <file_name>	Will create <file_name> file if it doesn't exist yet. Otherwise does nothing	touch HelloWorld.java
<some_command> > <file_name>	replaces contents of <file_name> with the output of <some_command>	echo "everything is gone" > HelloWorld.java
<some_command> >> <file_name>	concatenate <file_name> with the output of <some_command>	echo "byebye" >> HelloWorld.java