Basic Command Line Commands

Windows Command Prompt

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Outline

Launching Windows Command Prompt

1. Through the **run command**:
   - To open the command prompt in Windows, press ⊞ + R.
   - A box will pop up, write **cmd**
   - Press Enter.
2. Through the start menu:
   - Write **cmd** in the search bar.
   - Use the mouse to click on the **Command Prompt App**.
   - If you want to run the **Command Prompt App** in an **admin** mode, you can use the right click on the mouse then select **Run as administrator**

Getting Help

After the **command prompt** started (a black interface (mostly)). Write your first command ***help***, then this will be your best friend.

```
C:\Users\Name> help
```

Using the command **help | more** shows the help only on the available space on the screen. [1]

```
C:\Users\Name> help | more
```

- Use enter on the keyboard to read through the help line by line.
- Use the space bar on the keyboard to read page by page.
- Use the letter ***Q*** to **Quit** the help page.

[1] The vertical bar is called **Pipe**

The CD command

The CD command stands for:

1. **Change Directory** (Also used on Unix based systems)
2. **Display Directory** if no argument is passed after it

Dealing with directories

Showing the current directory

Definition (Current directory)

Directory is a fancy name for a **folder**.

Current Directory is the folder where you are at when you launch the **Command Prompt**

To display the **current directory**, use the command **cd** without any argument after it.

```
C:\Users\Name> cd
```

The dot (.) and The dot dot (..)

1. **The dot or period (.)** means the **current directory**, so if you type **cd .** you will stay in the current directory.

```
C:\Users\Name> cd .
C:\Users\Name>
```

2. **The dot dot "tow periods" (..)** means **the parent directory** of **one level up**.

```
C:\Users\Name> cd ..
C:\Users>
```

The DIR and CLS Commands

The DIR command will list all the files and folders (subdirectories) in the directory you are at:

```
C:\Users\Name> dir
```

The CLS command simply clears the screen to get you to the top of it.

```
C:\Users\Name> cls
```

Switching Through Disk Partitions

Suppose you have partitioned your hard drive into three partitions, the C (reserved for the system), D, E. To move from one partition to another, type letter of the partition followed by a colon:

```
# Change to partition D
C:\Users\Name> D:
D:\>
# Change to partition E
D:\> E:
E:\>
# Go back to partition C
E:\> C:
C:\Users\Name>
```

The MKDIR Command

MKDIR means **make directory**; which is the command to create **directories (or folders)**

Here, we create a directory in the partition D:

```
C:\Users\Name> D:
D:\> mkdir test_folder
```

Change the directory to the new one:

```
D:\> cd test\_folder
D:\test_folder>
# display the current directory
D:\test_folder> cd
D:\test_folder
```

The RMDIR Command

RMDIR means **remove directory**; which is the command to remove (delete) **empty directories (or folders)**:
If you are in the directory you want to delete, move one level up first.

```
# move to the parent directory
D:\test_folder> cd ..
D:\> rmdir test_folder
```

If you try to remove non empty folder, you got a warning message:

```
D:\> mkdir test
D:\> cd test
# Create a file inside this directory (later we will see this)
D:\test> echo > example.py
# Remove the directory
D:\test> cd ..
D:\> rmdir test
The directory is not empty
```

Creating Files with TYPE and ECHO Commands

You can use **TYPE** to create a file and to display its content. You have to use the > in order the file to be created.

```
D:\test> type nul > test.py
# Check the file is created
D:\test> dir
# Check the file content
D:\test> type test.py
```

Or, you can use **echo** command to create a new file.

```
D:\test> echo new_file.py
# Make sure the file is created
D:\test> dir
```

The DEL Command

Deleting files is a common process. Thus, the **DEL** command comes in handy. This command deletes **files not folders**.

```
# Display the content of the directory
D:\test> dir
# There is a file called test.py
D:\test> del test.py
```

Deletion is permanent

Deleting files from the command line is permanent. You won't find them in the recycle bin.

Delete Non empty Directory

Warning: Don't do this unless you are certain or you will lose information.

You can delete non empty directory by using **/s** option followed by the directory you aim to remove. You get a warning if you really want to proceed.

```
# Delete test directory
D:\> rmdir /s test
test, Are you sure (Y/N)?
```

Type **y** if you are sure or **N** otherwise.

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