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How To: Rename A File In Bash

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How do I rename a file in bash under UNIX / OS X / Linux / BSD operating systems?

The mv command rename SOURCE file to DESTINATION file using the following syntax:

[1]

```
mv oldname newname
mv source dest
mv olddir newdi
```

Task: Rename A File Called /tmp/foo To /tmp/bar

Type the following command (open terminal and issue the following commands):

```
# create /tmp/foo
touch /tmp/foo
ls -l /tmp/foo
mv /tmp/foo /tmp/bar
ls -l /tmp/bar
ls -l /tmp/foo
```

Task: Rename A Directory Called offfer To offers

Type the following command:

```
mv offfer offers
```

Task: Prompt Before Overwrite

The -i option is interactively file processing option. You get an error message before moving a file that would overwrite an existing file. If the response from the user begins with the character y or Y, the move / rename is attempted.

```
touch /tmp/test
mv -i /tmp/test /tmp/ba
```

Sample outputs:

```
mv: overwrite `/tmp/bar'? y
```

The -u Option

The -u option move only when the SOURCE file is newer than the destination file or when the destination file is missing:

```
mv -u data.txt /mnt/floppy/backup.txt
```

The -v Option

The -v option explain what is being done:

```
mv -v /tmp/bar /tmp/output.txt
```

Sample outputs:

```
`/tmp/bar' -> `/tmp/output.txt'
```

Task: Rename multiple files

Use rename command renames multiple files. For example rename all *.perl file as *.pl, enter:

```
ename .perl .pl *.perl
```

See [howto rename multiple files](#) [2] at a shell prompt for further details.

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