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How to: Linux / UNIX create soft link with ln command

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Q. How do I create a soft link (symbolic link) under UNIX or Linux operating system?

A. To make links between files you need to use ln command. A symbolic link (also known as a soft link or symlink) consists of a special type of file that serves as a reference to another file or directory. Unix/Linux like operating systems often use symbolic links.



[1]

Two types of links

There are two [types of links](#) [2]

- **symbolic links:** Refer to a symbolic path indicating the abstract location of another file
- **hard links :** Refer to the specific location of physical data.

How do I create soft link / symbolic link?

To create a symbolic link in Unix or Linux, at the shell prompt, enter the following command:
`ln -s {target-filename} {symbolic-filename}`

For example create softlink for /webroot/home/httpd/test.com/index.php as /home/vivek/index.php, enter the following command:

```
ln -s /webroot/home/httpd/test.com/index.php /home/vivek/index.php
ls -l
```

Output:

```
lrwxrwxrwx 1 vivek  vivek   16 2007-09-25 22:53 index.php -> /webroot/home/httpd/test.com/
```

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[2] types of links: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/understanding-unixlinux-symbolic-soft-and-hard-links.html>