



Moving Files

The **mv** command is used to move a file from one location in the filesystem to another.

```
mv SOURCE DESTINATION
```

The **mv** command requires at least two arguments. The first argument is the source, a path to the file to be moved. The second argument is the destination, a path to where the file will be moved to. The files to be moved are sometimes referred to as the source, and the place where the files are to be placed is called the destination.

Follow Along

Use the following command to switch to the **Documents** directory:

```
sysadmin@localhost:~$ cd ~/Documents
```

To move the **people.csv** file into the **Work** directory, use the filename as the source, and the directory name as the destination:

```
sysadmin@localhost:~/Documents$ mv people.csv Work
```

If a file is moved from one directory to another without specifying a new name for the file, it will retain its original name. The move above can be confirmed using the **ls** command on the **Work** directory:

```
sysadmin@localhost:~/Documents$ ls Work
people.csv
```

The **mv** command is able to move multiple files, as long as the final argument provided to the command is the destination. For example, to move three files into the **School** directory:

```
sysadmin@localhost:~/Documents$ mv numbers.txt letters.txt alpha.txt School
sysadmin@localhost:~/Documents$ ls School
Art Engineering Math alpha.txt letters.txt numbers.txt
```

Moving a file within the same directory is an effective way to rename it. For example, in the following example the `animals.txt` file is given a new name of `zoo.txt`:

```
mv animals.txt zoo.txt
```

```
sysadmin@localhost:~/Documents$ ls
School      alpha-second.txt  hello.sh          newhome.txt      red.txt
Work        alpha-third.txt   hidden.txt        os.csv
adjectives.txt animals.txt        linux.txt         passwd
alpha-first.txt food.txt          longfile.txt      profile.txt
sysadmin@localhost:~/Documents$ mv animals.txt zoo.txt
sysadmin@localhost:~/Documents$ ls
School      alpha-second.txt  hidden.txt        os.csv           zoo.txt
Work        alpha-third.txt   linux.txt         passwd
adjectives.txt food.txt          longfile.txt      profile.txt
alpha-first.txt hello.sh          newhome.txt       red.txt
```

Consider This

Permissions can have an impact on file management commands, such as the `mv` command. Moving a file requires write and execute permissions on both the origin and destination directories.



Manager of the Space Operations Computing (SpOC) for NASA Keith Chuvala

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