09/10/14

Why/what is the terminal?

* Screen and keyboard – how we interact with the machine
* One machine serving many people
* Move away from this type of computing, but now moving back through the cloud
* Terminal emulator: emulates the terminal entrance to the machine (unix)
* Inside of the terminal emulator is bash
* Way of interacting with your machine that will be around for the rest of your life
* Will you be able to access your files years down the line?
* Is the source code free? Does it allow you to modify?
* Not the notion of code, but the notion of text that drives the philosophy – has to be human friendly
* Microsoft word, photoshop, indesign, illustrator all have different ways of interfacing
  + Is it going to grow with you/your knowledge and expertise?
  + Invest your time in tools that will grow with you
* In terminal window everything works the same in every machine

Commands:

* pwd – tells you where you are – the root of it (orientation command)
* ls – list files/folders in your directory (also orientation command)
* man ls – manual page for ls
* man man – manual page for man
* q – quit manual
* cd – change directory
* cd .. – change back to previous directory
* babun creates its own directory, so there’s no way you can get to your windows through Cygwin/babun terminal: just creates a send box
* you may want to transfer all your docs to your Cygwin subfolder if you’re going to continue using it
* clear
* cd ~ - home
* bin contains the core toolkit
* syntax: transitive verb – adv – object
* ls (list contents of the current directory)
* ls /bin/ - list contents of root bin – gets to core toolkit
* tab autocompletes – autocomplete protects you from doing stupid things (making typos) - autocomplete almost everything
* mkdir – make directory
* cat – change your standard output

Plaintext

* plaintext is small, baked into the os, has been around for a long time and will continue to be around
  + pdfs, word files are not plaintext
    - underneath there is not something readable by humans – pdf needs adobe to read it
  + when your files are in plaintext, they can easily be processed/reprocessed/mined for information