

Lab 1

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Objectives

Learn basic terminal commands and how to work with a text editor

Become familiar with the Linux environment

On the virtual desk, click the Application button (at the top left) and type “terminal” in the input box. Click the “terminal” icon to open the terminal window.

A terminal window will open and you will see text of the form:

```
username@computer:~$
```

where `username` has been replaced by your CNetID and `computer` is the name of the virtual machine you happen to be using. This string is called the prompt. When you start typing, the characters you type will appear to the right of the `$`.

The program that runs within a terminal window and processes the commands the you type is called a *shell*. We use `bash`, which is the default shell on most Linux distributions, but there are other popular shells, such as `ksh`, `tcsh`, etc.

The procedure for completing this lab is as follows. For each section, read through the explanatory text and the examples. Then, try these ideas by doing the exercises listed at the bottom of the section.

1- Show Files

The terminal will start in your home directory, `/home/username/`, which is a special directory assigned to your user account. Any desktop that you get to via the CS vDesk server will automatically connect to your home directory and all files that you created or changed in previous vDesk sessions will be available to you.

Two very useful commands are `pwd` and `ls`:

`pwd` Prints your current working directory - tells you where you are in your directory tree.

`ls` Lists all of the files in the current directory.

The following is an example using these two commands in a terminal window:

```
username@computer:~$ pwd
/home/username/
username@computer:~$ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public Templates Videos
username@computer:~$
```

Try these commands yourself to verify that everything looks similar.

Notice that the directory path and list of files that you see if you open your home folder graphically are identical to those provided by `pwd` and `ls`, respectively. The only difference is how you get the information, how the information is displayed, and how easy it is to write a script that, say, processes all the Python files in a directory.

2- Change Directory

<code>cd <path-name></code>	change to the directory path-name
<code>cd ..</code>	move up/back one directory
<code>cd</code>	move to your home directory

How can we move around in the file system? If we were using a graphical system, we would double click on folders and occasionally click the “back” arrow. In order to change directories in the terminal, we use `cd` (change directory) followed by the name of the destination directory. (A note about notation: we will use text inside angle brackets, such as `<path-name>` as a place holder. The text informally describes the type of value that should be supplied. In the case of `<path-name>`, the desired value is the path-name for a file. More about path-names later.) For example if we want to change to the `Desktop` directory, we type the following in the terminal:

```
cd Desktop
```

Here is an example of changing to the desktop directory in the terminal. We use `pwd` and `ls` to verify where we are and where we can go:

```
username@computer:~$ pwd
/home/username/
username@computer:~$ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public Templates Videos
```

```
username@computer:~$ cd Desktop
username@computer:~/Desktop$ pwd
/home/username/Desktop/
username@computer:~/Desktop$ ls
username@computer:~/Desktop$
```

Notice that after we `cd` into the `Desktop` the command `pwd` now prints out:

```
/home/username/Desktop/
```

rather than:

```
/home/username/
```

In the beginning, there are no files in the Desktop directory, which is why the output of `ls` in this directory is empty.

We can move up one step in the directory tree (e.g., from `/home/username/Desktop` to `/home/username` or from `/home/username` to `/home`) by typing `cd ..`. Here “up” is represented by “`..`”. In this context, this command will move us up one level back to our home directory:

```
username@computer:~/Desktop$ pwd
/home/username/Desktop/
username@computer:~/Desktop$ cd ..
username@computer:~$ pwd
/home/username/
```

Notice that the current working directory is also shown in the prompt string.

- `~` shortcut for your home directory
- `.` shortcut for the current working directory
- `..` shortcut for one level up from your current working directory

The tilde (`~`) directory is the same as your home directory: that is, `~` is shorthand for `/home/username`. Here’s another useful shorthand: a single dot (`.`) refers to the current directory.

Usually when you use `cd`, you will specify what is called a *relative* path, that is, you are telling the computer to take you to a directory where the location of the directory is described relative to the current directory. The only reason that the computer knows that we can `cd` to `Desktop` is because `Desktop` is a folder within the `/home/username` directory. But, if we use a `/` at the *beginning* of our path, we are specifying an absolute path or one that is relative to the the “root” or top of the file system. For example:

```
username@computer:~$ pwd
/home/username/
username@computer:~$ cd /home/username/Desktop
username@computer:~/Desktop$ pwd
/home/username/Desktop
username@computer:~/Desktop$ cd /home/username
username@computer:~$ pwd
/home/username
```

These commands achieve the same thing as the ones above: we `cd` into `Desktop`, a folder within our home directory, and then back to our home directory. Paths that start with a `/` are known as *absolute paths* because they always lead to the same place, regardless of your current working directory.

Running `cd` without an argument will take you back to your home directory without regard to your current location in the file system. For example:

```
username@computer:~/Desktop$ cd
username@computer:~$ pwd
/home/username
```

To improve the readability of our examples, we will use `$` as the prompt rather than the full text `username@computer:~$` in the rest of this lab and, more generally, in the course going forward. Keep in mind, though, that the prompt shows your current working directory.

3- Copy (**cp**), Move (**mv**), Remove (**rm**), and Make Directory (**mkdir**)

cp <source> <destination>	copy the source file to the new destination
mv <source> <destination>	move the source file to the new destination
rm <file>	remove or delete a file
mkdir <directoryname>	make a new empty directory

Sometimes it is useful to make a copy of a file. To copy a file, use the command:

```
cp <source> <destination>
```

where **<source>** is replaced by the name of the file you want to copy and **<destination>** is replaced by the desired name for the copy. An example of copying the file **test.txt** to **copy.txt** is below:

```
$ cp test.txt copy.txt
```

<destination> can also be replaced with a path to a directory. In this case, the copy will be stored in the specified directory and will have the same name as the source.

Move (**mv**) has exactly the same syntax, but does not keep the original file. Remove (**rm**) will delete the file from your directory.

If you want to copy or remove an entire directory along with its files, the normal **cp** and **rm** commands will not work. Use **cp -r** instead of **cp** or **rm -r** instead of **rm** to copy or remove directories (the **r** stands for “recursive”):

Make sure you want to remove *everything* in the named directory, including subdirectories, *before* you use **rm -r**.

You can make a new directory with **mkdir directoryname**, where **directoryname** is the desired name for the new directory.

Exercises #1

Try the following tasks to practice and check your understanding of these terminal commands.

1. Execute the above copy command and use `ls` to ensure that both files exist.
2. Move the file `copy.txt` to the name `copy2.txt`. Use `ls` to verify that this command worked.
3. Make a new directory named `backups` using the `mkdir` command.
4. Copy the file `copy2.txt` to the `backups` directory and name it to `test.txt`
5. Verify that step (4) was successful by listing the files in the `backups` directory.
6. Now that we have a copy of `copy2.txt` (`test.txt`) in the backups directory we no longer need `copy2.txt`. Remove the file `copy2.txt` in this directory.

It can be tedious (and, when you are tired, challenging) to spell directory or file names exactly, so the terminal provides an auto-complete mechanism to guide you through your folder explorations. To access this functionality simply start typing whatever name you are interested in the context of a command and then hit tab. If there is only one way to finish that term hitting tab will fill in the rest of the term, for instance, if we typed `ls b` and then hit tab it would automatically finish the word `ls backups` and then await our hitting enter. If there is MORE than one way to finish a term, like if we had another folder called `backups-old`, then hitting tab twice will cause the terminal to display all of the options available.

Training yourself to use auto-completion (aka tab completion) will save you time and reduce the inevitable frustration that arises from mistyping filenames when you are tired or distracted.

4. Using an Editor

You can use a text editor to edit or create a text file. There are many editors in Linux such as nano, pico, vi, emacs. Let's try to use nano for creating a file

Launch nano to edit:

```
nano hello.py
```

Type the following text into it:

```
name = input("Enter your name: ")  
print("Hello", name)
```

Press `Control+x`, you will get a prompt at the bottom of the screen asking you to "Save modified buffer (Answering No will DESTROY CHANGES)". Press `y` as we want to save the changes, and then Enter to Save Changes and exit the nano editor.

To save a file press CTRL + O. It will ask you for the filename.
Use the CTRL + X to exit nano
User CTRL + C to cancel the exit and re-enter nano

Alternatively you can create the file with this command

```
echo " print("hello your name ") " > ~/hello.py
```

the chmod command is used to change the access mode of a file

```
chmod +x hello.py
```

5. Run a Python Program

`python3 hello.py` runs the python program file.py

In this class, you will learn Python. To run a Python program, use the command `python3` and the name of the file that contains your program.

Use `ls` to verify that there is a file named `hello.py`. Now, run the program in `hello.py` by typing (don't forget about auto-complete!):

```
python3 hello.py
```

This program is a very simple. It just prints "Hello, World!" to the screen.

Note

There are several variants of Python, including Python 2.7 and Python 3. We will be using Python 3 and the corresponding `python3` interpreter. The CS machines have Python 2.7 installed as the default Python. As a result, the command `python` runs a version of Python 2.7. There are some differences between the two languages and Python 3 programs may not run properly using a Python 2.7 interpreter.

Exercises #2

In this section you will modify and rerun the program in `hello.py`. This change is very simple but goes through all the mechanical steps needed to program.

Open the file `hello.py` with the command:

Nano `hello_world.py`

The file contains a single line of code:

```
print("Hello, your name ")
```

Change this line so that it instead says "Hello your name" the line would read:

```
print("Hello, Class!")
```

Do the following steps:

1. Save the file `hello.py` in nano (forgetting to save is a surprisingly common error)
2. Rerun the program using `python3`

6. Running Commands Sequentially

It is often convenient to chain together commands that you want to run in sequence. For example, recall that to print the working directory and list all of the files and directories contained inside, you would use the following commands:

```
$ pwd
/home/username/
$ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public Templates Videos
```

You could also run them together, like so:

```
$ pwd ; ls
/home/username/
Desktop Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public Templates Videos
```

First, `pwd` is executed and run to completion, and then `ls` is executed and run to completion. The two examples above are thus equivalent, but the ability to run multiple commands

together is a small convenience that could save you some time if there is a group of commands that you want to execute sequentially.

Note

The shell doesn't care about white space, so it will run any of the following as well:

```
$ pwd;ls
$ pwd ;ls
$ pwd; ls
$ pwd ; ls
```

7. Redirection

The examples in this section will use commands that we've not yet discussed. Refer to the man pages for information about unfamiliar commands.

As we already know, commands like `pwd`, `ls`, and `cat` will print output to screen by default. Sometimes, however, we may prefer to write the output of these commands to a file. In Linux, we can redirect the output of a program to a file of our choosing. This operation is done with the `>` operator.

Exercises #3

Try the following example and compare your output with ours:

```
$ cd
$ touch test-0.txt
$ ls > test-1.txt
$ cat test-1.txt
$ echo "Hello World!" > test-2.txt
$ cat test-2.txt
Hello World!
$ cat test-2.txt > test-1.txt; cat test-1.txt
Hello World!
$ rm test-*
```

Two important things to note:

1. If you redirect to a file that does not exist, that file will be created.
2. If you redirect to a file that already exists, the contents of that file will be **overwritten**.

You can use the append operator (`>>`) to append the output of command to the end of an existing file rather than overwrite the contents of that file.

Not only can we redirect the output of a program to a file, we can also have a program receive its input from a file. This operation is done with the `<` operator. For example:

```
$ python3 hello.py < my-input.txt
```

In general, all Linux processes can perform input/output operations through, at least, the keyboard and the screen. More specifically, there are three 'input/output streams': standard input (or `stdin`), standard output (or `stdout`), and standard error (or `stderr`). The code in `my_echo.py` simply reads information from `stdin` and writes it back out to `stdout`. The redirection operators change the bindings of these streams from the keyboard and/or screen to files. We'll discuss `stderr` later in the term.

8. Piping

In addition to the ability to direct output to and receive input from files, Linux provides a very powerful capability called piping. Piping allows one program to receive as input the output of another program, like so:

```
$ program1 | program2
```

In this example, the output of `program1` is used as the input of `program2`. Or to put it more technically, the `stdout` of `program1` is connected to the `stdin` of `program2`.

`stdin` – It stands for standard input, and is used for taking text as an input. `stdout` – It stands for standard output, and is used to text output of any command you type in the terminal, and then that output is stored in the `stdout` stream

- Listing all files and directories and give it as input to more command.

```
$ls -l | more
```

The `more` command takes the output of `$ ls -l` as its input.

- Use `sort` and `uniq` command to sort a file and print unique values.

```
$sort record.txt | uniq
```

This will sort the given file and print the unique values only.

SORT command is used to sort a file, arranging the records in a particular order

The **uniq** command in Linux is a command that filters out the repeated lines in a file. **uniq** filters out the adjacent matching lines from the input file(that is required as an argument) and writes the filtered data to the output file.

- Use head and tail to print lines in a particular range in a file

```
$cat sample2.txt | head -7 | tail -5
```

This command selects first 7 lines through (head -7) command and that will be input to (tail -5) command which will finally print last 5 lines from that 7 lines.

- Use cat, grep, tee and wc command to read the particular entry from user and store in a file and print line count.

```
$ cat result.txt | grep "sulaiman" | tee file2.txt | wc -l
```

This command select sulaiman and store them in file2.txt and print total number of lines matching sulaiman

The **grep** filter searches a file for a particular pattern of characters, and displays all lines that contain that pattern

As another more concrete example, consider the **man** command with the **-k** option that we've previously discussed. Let's assume that you hadn't yet been introduced to the **mkdir** command. How would you look for the command to create a directory? First attempts:

```
$ man -k "create directory"
create directory: nothing appropriate
$ man -k "directory"
(a bunch of mostly irrelevant output)
```

As we can see, neither of these options is particularly helpful. However, with piping, we can combine `man -k` with a powerful command line utility called `grep` (see man pages) to find what we need:

```
$ man -k "directory" | grep "create"
mkdir (2)      - create a directory
mkdirat (2)    - create a directory
mkdtemp (3)    - create a unique temporary directory
mkfontdir (1)  - create an index of X font files in a directory
mklost+found (8) - create a lost+found directory on a mounted Linux second extended fil...
mktemp (1)     - create a temporary file or directory
pam_mkhomedir (8) - PAM module to create users home directory
update-info-dir (8) - update or create index file from all installed info files in directory
vgmknodes (8)  - recreate volume group directory and logical volume special files
```

Exercises #4

1. Use piping to chain together the `printenv` and `tail` commands to display the last 10 lines of output from `printenv`.
2. Replicate the above functionality without using the `|` operator. (hint: Use a temporary file.)

9. Man Pages

A man page (short for manual page) documents or describes topics applicable to Linux programming. These topics include Linux programs, certain programming functions, standards, and conventions, and abstract concepts.

To get the man page for a Linux command, you can type:

```
man <command name>
```

So in order to get the man page for `ls`, you would type:

```
man ls
```

This command displays a man page that gives information on the `ls` command, including a description, flags, instructions on use, and other information.

```
man -k printf
```

```

graph TD
    Root[" / root"]
    Root --- Bin[" /bin  
# essential binaries  
cat  
chgrp  
chmod  
chown  
cp  
data  
dd  
df  
dmesg  
echo  
false  
ln  
login  
ls  
mkdir  
mknod  
more  
mount  
mv  
ps  
pwd  
rm  
rmdir  
sed  
sh  
stat  
su  
sync  
true  
unmount  
uname"]
    Root --- Boot[" /boot  
# static files of boot  
# loader  
kernel  
system.map  
vmlinuz  
initrd  
grub  
module.info  
boot"]
    Root --- Etc[" /etc  
# host specific system config  
csh.login  
exports  
fstab  
fstoppers  
gateways  
gettydefs  
group  
host.conf  
hosts  
hosts.allow  
hosts.deny  
hosts.equiv  
hosts.lpd  
inetd.conf  
initab  
issue  
ls.co.conf  
mold  
mtab  
mtools  
networks  
passwd  
printcap  
profile  
protocols  
resolv.conf  
rpc  
securetty  
services  
shells  
syslog.conf  
/opt  
# config file for add on  
# application software"]
    Root --- Usr[" /usr  
# shareable and read-only  
# data  
/local  
# local software  
/bin  
/games  
/include  
/lib  
/man  
/sbin  
/share  
/src  
/share  
# static data sharable  
# among all architectures  
/man  
# manual pages  
/man1 # user programs  
/man2 # system calls  
/man3 # lib functions  
/man4 # special file  
/man5 # file formats  
/man6 # games  
/man7 # misc.  
/man8 # system admin.  
/bin  
# most user commands  
/include  
# standard include files  
# for 'C' prog.  
/lib  
# obj, bin, lib files  
# for prog. and packages  
/sbin  
# non essential binaries"]
    Root --- Var[" /var  
# variable data files  
/cache  
# application cache data  
/lib  
# variable state info  
# remains after reboot  
/lock  
# lock files for shared  
# resources  
/opt  
# variable data of  
# packages installed  
/run  
# info of system since it  
# was booted  
/tmp  
# available for prog.  
/spool  
# data awaiting processing  
/lpd  
/mqueue  
/news  
/rwho  
/uucp  
/log  
# log files and dir  
lastlog  
messages  
wtmp"]
    Root --- Sbin[" /sbin  
# system binaries  
fastboot  
fasthalt  
fdisk  
fdick  
getty  
halt  
ifconfig  
init  
mkfs  
mkswap  
reboot  
route  
swapoff  
update"]
    Root --- Tmp[" /tmp  
# temporary files deleted on  
# reboot"]
    Root --- Dev[" /dev  
# location of special or  
# device files  
# [contains makedev]"]
    Root --- Home[" /home  
# user home directories"]
    Root --- Lib[" /lib  
# library and kernel modules"]
    Root --- Mnt[" /mnt  
# mount files for temporary  
# filesystems"]
    Root --- Opt[" /opt  
# add-on application  
# filesystems"]
    Root --- RootDir[" /root  
# home dir. for root user"]

```

