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GUI and CLI

The GUI (graphical user interface) and the CLI (command line interface) are the two sides of the computer that work hand in hand with one another to create the overall digital interface that you use on your computer every day. The GUI is the interface you see and use every time you use your computer. It is the most commonly used way to find directories on your computer and access the information in those directories. The CLI, however, is essentially the same interface, just much scarier looking. The CLI can also be used to find different directories and access their information, however, it can be a much more linear and quick process with the CLI. Now we can discuss in more depth how these two interfaces work and how they are different.

The GUI is much more straightforward at a first glance than the CLI. One major thing that separates the two is the use of a mouse or pointer. With the GUI, you use a mouse or trackpad to direct an on-screen pointer to an icon, image, or text display that is followed by a series of actions.

However, the CLI is a little bit different in the way you interact with it, but it is used to accomplish the same goals. For starters, you do not use a mouse or pointer with the CLI, at least not to work your way through directories or other sets of data. You use your keyboard to type out different command prompts that will lead you through your computer's vast array of data.

Though it can look complicated, it is no more complicated than learning how to use the GUI for the first time.

These two interfaces represent two different ways of sorting through the files of your computer and organizing them. While we interact with the GUI more often than the CLI, the CLI can be a more effective tool when trying to access a directory that you maybe had trouble finding through your file explorer, while the GUI is more practical when wanting to open a desktop application the Google Chrome. Though both actions can be done through one or the other, learning how to fluently use both will greatly benefit the user.