Department of Computer & Software Engineering – ITU CE301L: Operating Systems Lab

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Batch: BSCE22	

Lab 1 – Introduction to Linux Command Line Interface

Name	Roll number	Total (out of 35)

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1 Introduction to Linux Command Line Interface

Introduction

In this lab we will have a look at the command line interface in Linux using the bash terminal in the Ubuntu Linux distribution. We will learn commands with which we will be able to navigate the Linux file system, create new files and manipulate existing files.

Objectives

This lab will introduce students to the command line interface in Ubuntu-Linux. The key learning objectives of this lab are listed below:

- Learn about the bash terminal and command line interface in Linux
- Navigate the Linux file system and view files and contents of directories inside the terminal
- Execute commands that can manipulate files and directories in Linux
- Use I/O redirection and command pipelining

Background

1.1 Navigating the Linux file system

In this section, we will introduce five commands that can be used to navigate the Linux file system, pwd, 1s, cd, less and file. First, let's have a look at the structure of the file system in Ubuntu.

Ubuntu file system has a hierarchical directory structure similar to Windows. The first directory in the hierarchy is called root directory. The root directory contains files and subdirectories which contain more files and subdirectories and so on. Figure 1.1 shows a representation of Ubuntu file system as viewed inside a file manager.

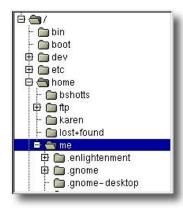


Figure 1.1: File system in Ubuntu as viewed in a file manager

1.1.1 Opening the terminal

The terminal can be opened in more than one ways. You can either search inside the apps by writing any of "terminal", "bash", "console", "gnome-terminal" etc., or you can use the keyboard shortcut of Ctrl + Alt + T. The terminal window is shown in Figure 1.2.

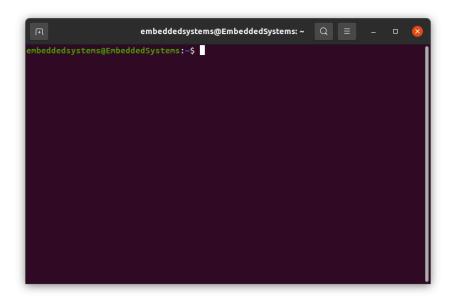


Figure 1.2: gnome-terminal in Ubuntu

1.1.2 pwd

While working on Command Line Interface (CLI), the directory in which we are currently resided is called the working directory. To view the name of the working directory, we use the pwd command.

When terminal is opened, the working directory is by default set to our home directory as shown in Figure 1.3.

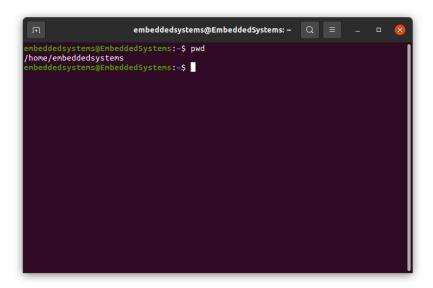


Figure 1.3: Output of pwd command

1.1.3 Is

The 1s command is used to list the contents of a directory. It is probably the most commonly used Linux command. It can be used in a number of different ways. Here are some examples:

Table 1.1: Examples of Is command

Command	Result
ls	List the files in the working directory
ls /bin	List the files in the /bin directory (or any other directory we care to specify)
ls -1	List the files in the working directory in long format
ls -l /etc /bin	List the files in the /bin directory and the /etc directory in long format

ls -la	List all files (even ones with names beginning with a period character, which are
15 -1a	normally hidden) in the parent of the working directory in long format

These examples also point out an important concept about commands. Most commands operate like this:

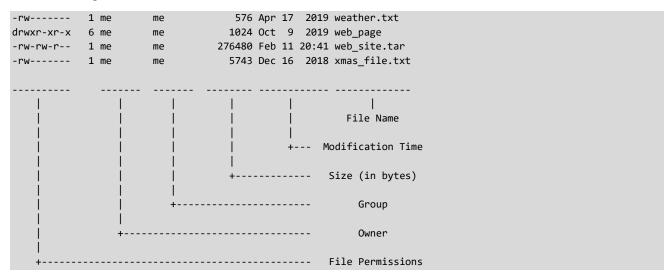
```
command -options arguments
```

Where command is the name of the command, -options is one or more adjustments to the command's behavior, and arguments is one or more "things" upon which the command operates.

In the case of 1s, we see that 1s is the name of the command, and that it can have one or more options, such as -a and -1, and it can operate on one or more files or directories.

1.1.3.1 A closer look at long format

If we use the -1 option with 1s, you will get a file listing that contains a wealth of information about the files being listed. Here's an example:



In file permissions, the first character is the type of file. A "-" indicates a regular (ordinary) file. A "d" indicates a directory. The second set of three characters represent the read, write, and execution rights of the file's owner. The next three represent the rights of the file's group, and the final three represent the rights granted to everybody else.

1.1.3.2 cd

To change the working directory, we use the cd command. To do so, we type cd followed by the pathname of the desired working directory. A pathname is the route we take along the branches of the tree of Linux file system to get to the directory we want. Pathnames can be specified in two different ways: absolute pathnames or relative pathnames. Let's look at absolute pathnames first.

An absolute pathname begins with the root directory and follows the tree branch by branch until the path to the desired directory or file is completed. For example, there is a directory on your system in which most programs are installed. The pathname of the directory is /usr/bin. This means from the root directory (represented by the leading slash in the pathname) there is a directory called "usr" which contains a directory called "bin".

Let's try this out:

```
addpart
                                        mkdir
 alsabat
                                        mkfifo
 alsaloop
                                        mkfontdir
 alsamixer
                                        mkfontscale
 alsatplg
                                        mkisofs
 alsaucm
                                        mkmanifest
 amidi
                                        mk modmap
 amixer
                                        mknod
 amuFormat.sh
                                        mksquashfs
                                        mktemp
 apgbfm
                                        mkzftree
and many more...
```

An absolute pathname starts from the root directory and leads to its destination, whereas a relative pathname starts from the working directory. To do this, it uses a couple of special notations to represent relative positions in the file system tree. These special notations are "." (dot) and ".." (dot dot). The "." notation refers to the working directory itself and the ".." notation refers to the working directory's parent directory. Here is how it works: Let's change the working directory to /usr/bin again:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ cd /usr/bin
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:/usr/bin$ pwd
/usr/bin
```

Now let's say that we wanted to change the working directory to the parent of /usr/bin which is /usr. We could do that in two different ways. First, with an absolute pathname:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ cd /usr
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ pwd
/usr
```

Or, with a relative pathname:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ cd ..
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ pwd
/usr
```

Likewise, we can change the working directory from /usr to /usr/bin in two different ways. First using an absolute pathname:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ cd /usr/bin
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ pwd
/usr/bin
```

Or, with a relative pathname:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ cd ./bin
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ pwd
/usr/bin
```

In most cases, we can omit the "./". It is implied. Typing the following would do the same thing:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ cd bin
```

1.1.4 less

less is a program that lets us view text files. This is very handy since many of the files used to control and configure Linux are human readable.

The less program is invoked by simply typing:

```
less text_file
```

This will display the file.

1.1.4.1 Controlling less

Once started, less will display the text file one page at a time. We can use the Page Up and Page Down keys to move through the text file. To exit less, we type "q". Here are some commands that less will accept:

Table 1.2: Keyboard commands for the less program

Command	Action
Page Up or b	Scroll back one page
Page Down or space	Scroll forward one page
G	Go to the end of the text file
1G	Go to the beginning of the text file
/characters	Search forward in the text file for an occurrence of the specified characters
n	Repeat the previous search
h	Display a complete list of less commands and options
q	Quit

1.1.5 file

The file command helps to determine what kind of data a file contains before we try to view it. file will examine a file and tell us what kind of file it is. To use the file program, we just type:

file name_of_file

The file program can recognize most types of files. Some examples are listed below:

Table 1.3: Various kinds of files in Linux

File Type	Description	Viewable as text?
ASCII text	An ASCII text file	yes
Bourne-Again shell script text	A bash script	yes
ELF 64-bit LSB executable	An executable binary program	no
ELF 64-bit LSB shared object	A shared library	no
GNU tar archive	A tape archive file. A common way of storing groups of files.	no, use tar tvf to view listing.
gzip compressed data	An archive compressed with gzip	no
HTML document text	A web page	yes
JPEG image data	A compressed JPEG image	no
PostScript document text	A PostScript file	yes
Zip archive data	An archive compressed with zip	no

1.2 Manipulating files

This section will introduce the following commands:

- touch create files and update access and modification timestamps of files
- cat create, display and concatenate files
- cp copy files and directories
- mv move or rename files and directories
- rm remove files and directories
- mkdir create directories

These four commands are among the most frequently used Linux commands. They are the basic commands for manipulating both files and directories.

1.2.1 touch

The touch command can be used to create a single or multiple files:

 ${\tt embedded Systems:} {\tt ~\$ touch file 1}$

This creates a file named "file1" in the current working directory.

 ${\tt embedded Systems:} {\tt ~\$ touch file1 file2}$

This creates two files named "file1" and "file2" in the current working directory.

Other useful examples of touch and its options are given below:

Table 1.4: Examples of the touch command

Command	Result
touch -a file1	Changes the access time of file1 to current time. If file1 does not exist, a new file is created.
touch -m file1	Changes the modification time of file1 to current time. If file1 does not exist, a new file is created.
touch file1 -r file2	Copies the access and modification times of file2 to the access and modification times of file1.
touch -t YYMMDDHHMM.SS file1	Creates a new file with specified timestamp.
touch -c -t YYMMDDHHMM.SS file1	Changes the timestamp of an existing file.

1.2.2 cat

The cat command is a frequently used command in Linux. The cat command coupled with I/O redirection operators can be used to perform several tasks, such as to create new files, concatenate existing files, to view contents of files, etc. Some examples of cat command are listed below:

Command	Result
cat file1	Displays the contents of file1 file
cat file1 file1	Displays contents of both files
cat > file1	Creates new file named file1
cat -n file	Displays contents with the line numbers in the output terminal
cat file1 > file2	Output contents of file1 in a new or existing file "file2"

1.2.3 cp

The cp program copies files and directories. In its simplest form, it copies a single file:

embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~\$ cp file1 file2

It can also be used to copy multiple files (and/or directories) to a different directory:

embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~\$ cp file... directory

Other useful examples of cp and its options include:

Table 1.5: Examples of the cp command

Command	Results
cp file1 file2	Copies the contents of file1 into file2. If file2 does not exist, it is created; otherwise, file2
	is silently overwritten with the contents of file1.
cp -i file1 file2	Like above however, since the "-i" (interactive) option is specified, if file2 exists, the
	user is prompted before it is overwritten with the contents of file1.
cp file1 dir1	Copy the contents of file1 (into a file named file1) inside of directory dir1.
cp -R dir1 dir2	Copy the contents of the directory dir1. If directory dir2 does not exist, it is created.
	Otherwise, it creates a directory named dir1 within directory dir2.

1.2.4 mv

The mv command moves or renames files and directories depending on how it is used. It will either move one or more files to a different directory, or it will rename a file or directory. To rename a file, it is used like this:

embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~\$ mv filename1 filename2

To move files (and/or directories) to a different directory:

embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~\$ mv file... directory

Examples of mv and its options include:

Table 1.6: Examples of mv command

Command	Results
mv file1 file2	If file2 does not exist, then file1 is renamed file2. If file2 exists, its contents are silently
	replaced with the contents of file1.
mv -i file1 file2	Like above however, since the "-i" (interactive) option is specified, if file2 exists, the
	user is prompted before it is overwritten with the contents of file1.
mv file1 file2 dir1	The files file1 and file2 are moved to directory dir1. If dir1 does not exist, mv will exit
	with an error.
mv dir1 dir2	If dir2 does not exist, then dir1 is renamed dir2. If dir2 exists, the directory dir1 is moved
	within directory dir2.

1.2.5 rm

The rm command removes (deletes) files and directories.

embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~\$ rm file...

Using the recursive option -r, rm can also be used to delete directories:

embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~\$ rm -r directory...

Examples of rm and its options include:

Table 1.7: Examples of rm command

Command	Results
rm file1 file2	Delete file1 and file2.
rm -i file1 file2	Like above however, since the "-i" (interactive) option is specified, the user is prompted
	before each file is deleted.
rm -r dir1 dir2	Directories dir1 and dir2 are deleted along with all of their contents.

Linux does not have an undelete command so it is advised to be careful with the use of rm. Once you delete something with rm, it's gone.

1.2.6 mkdir

The mkdir command is used to create directories. To use it, you simply type:

embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~\$ mkdir directory...

1.2.7 Wildcards

Since the shell uses filenames so much, it provides special characters to help you rapidly specify groups of filenames. These special characters are called wildcards. Wildcards allow you to select filenames based on patterns of characters. The table below lists the wildcards and what they select:

Table 1.8: Summary of wildcards and their meanings

Wildcard	Meaning			
*	Matches any characters			
;	Matches any single character			
[characters]	Matches any character that is a member of the set characters. The set of characters may also be expressed as a POSIX character class such as one of the following: POSIX Character Classes [:alnum:] Alphanumeric characters [:alpha:] Alphabetic characters [:digit:] Numerals [:upper:] Uppercase alphabetic characters [:lower:] Lowercase alphabetic characters			
[!characters]	[!characters] Matches any character that is not a member of the set characters			

Using wildcards, it is possible to construct very sophisticated selection criteria for filenames. Here are some examples of patterns and what they match:

Table 1.9: Examples of wildcard matching

Pattern	Matches
*	All filenames
g*	All filenames that begin with the character "g"
b*.txt	All filenames that begin with the character "b" and end with the characters ".txt"
Data???	Any filename that begins with the characters "Data" followed by exactly 3 more characters
[abc]*	Any filename that begins with "a" or "b" or "c" followed by any other characters
[[:upper:]]*	Any filename that begins with an uppercase letter. This is an example of a character class.
BACKUP.[[:digit:]]	Another example of character classes. This pattern matches any filename that begins with the
[[:digit:]]	characters "BACKUP." followed by exactly two numerals.
*[![:lower:]]	Any filename that does not end with a lowercase letter.

We can use wildcards with any command that accepts filename arguments.

1.2.7.1 Using commands with wildcards

Since the commands we have covered here accept multiple file and directories names as arguments, you can use wildcards to specify them. Here are a few examples:

Command

cp *.txt text_files

Copy all files in the current working directory with names ending with the characters

".txt" to an existing directory named text_files.

Move the subdirectory dir1 and all the files ending in ".bak" in the current working directory's parent directory to an existing directory named dir2.

Delete all files in the current working directory that end with the character "~". Some applications create backup files using this naming scheme. Using this command will clean them out of a directory.

Table 1.10: Command examples using wildcards

1.3 I/O redirection

In this section, we will explore a powerful feature used by command line programs called input/output redirection. As we have seen, many commands such as 1s print their output on the display. This does not have to be the case, however. By using some special notations, we can redirect the output of many commands to files, devices, and even to the input of other commands.

1.3.1 Standard output

Most command line programs that display their results do so by sending their results to a facility called standard output. By default, standard output directs its contents to the display. To redirect standard output to a file, the ">" character is used like this:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ ls > file_list.txt
```

In this example, the 1s command is executed and the results are written in a file named file_list.txt as shown in F. Since the output of 1s was redirected to the file, no results appear on the display.



Figure 1.4: Output of Is redirected to file_list.txt

Each time the command above is repeated, file_list.txt is overwritten from the beginning with the output of the command 1s. To have the new results appended to the file instead, we use ">>" like this:

embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~\$ >> file_list.txt

When the results are appended, the new results are added to the end of the file, thus making the file longer each time the command is repeated. If the file does not exist when we attempt to append the redirected output, the file will be created.

1.3.2 Standard input

Many commands can accept input from a facility called standard input. By default, standard input gets its contents from the keyboard, but like standard output, it can be redirected. To redirect standard input from a file instead of the keyboard, the "<" character is used like this:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ sort < file_list.txt</pre>
```

In the example above, we used the sort command to process the contents of file_list.txt. The results are output on the display since the standard output was not redirected. We could redirect standard output to another file like this:

```
embeddedsystems@EmbeddedSystems:~$ sort < file_list.txt > sorted_file_list.txt
```

As we can see, a command can have both its input and output redirected. Be aware that the order of the redirection does not matter. The only requirement is that the redirection operators ("<" and ">") must appear after the other options and arguments in the command.

1.3.3 Pipelines

The most useful and powerful thing we can do with I/O redirection is to connect multiple commands together to form what are called pipelines. With pipelines, the standard output of one command is fed into the standard input of another. Here is a very useful example:

```
[me@linuxbox me]$ ls -1 | less
```

In this example, the output of the 1s command is fed into less. By using this "| less" trick, we can make any command have scrolling output.

1.3.3.1 Filters

One kind of program frequently used in pipelines is called a filter. Filters take standard input and perform an operation upon it and send the results to standard output. In this way, they can be combined to process information in powerful ways. Here are some of the common programs that can act as filters:

Table 1.11: Common filter commands

Program	What it does		
sort	It sorts standard input then outputs the sorted result on standard output.		
uniq	Given a sorted stream of data from standard input, it removes duplicate lines of data (i.e., it makes sure that every line is unique).		
grep	Examines each line of data it receives from standard input and outputs every line that contains a specified pattern of characters.		
fmt	Reads text from standard input, then outputs formatted text on standard output.		
pr	Takes text input from standard input and splits the data into pages with page breaks, headers and footers in preparation for printing.		
head	Outputs the first few lines of its input. Useful for getting the header of a file.		
tail	Outputs the last few lines of its input. Useful for things like getting the most recent entries from a log file.		
tr	Translates characters. Can be used to perform tasks such as upper/lowercase conversions or changing line termination characters from one type to another (for example, converting DOS text files into Unix style text files).		
sed	Stream editor. Can perform more sophisticated text translations than tr.		
awk	An entire programming language designed for constructing filters. Extremely powerful.		

1.3.3.2 Examples of performing tasks with pipelines

Linux provides a program called lpr that accepts standard input and sends it to the printer. It is often used with pipes and filters. Here are a couple of examples:

```
cat poorly_formatted_report.txt | fmt | pr | lpr
```

cat unsorted_list_with_dupes.txt | sort | uniq | pr | lpr

In the first example, we use cat to read the file and output it to standard output, which is piped into the standard input of fmt. fmt formats the text into neat paragraphs and outputs it to standard output, which is piped into the standard input of pr. pr splits the text neatly into pages and outputs it to standard output, which is piped into the standard input of lpr. lpr takes its standard input and sends it to the printer.

The second example starts with an unsorted list of data with duplicate entries. First, cat sends the list into sort which sorts it and feeds it into uniq which removes any duplicates. Next pr and lpr are used to paginate and print the list.

Lab tasks

This lab will be evaluated based on your in-lab performance and submitted reports according to the rubric presented at the end of this manual. Your solutions of tasks will be used to assess the performance metrics of Realization of Experiment, Conduction of Experiment, Data Collection and Computer Use. The metric of Analysis will be graded according to the questions in the Analysis Section. The grading of Lab Safety and Discipline and Teamwork metrics will be based on the lab engineer's observations (detailed criteria given in Appendix A).

1.4 Task 1: Navigation and manipulation [Marks: 10]

- 1. Power up your Ubuntu virtual machine and log in using your username and password.
- 2. Unzip the given folder "lab1" and paste the unzipped folder on your Ubuntu Desktop.
- 3. Open terminal by pressing Ctrl+Alt+T.
- 4. Change working directory to the copied folder lab1. Use pwd to ensure that the working directory has been changed successfully.
- 5. Use 1s to list all files in the lab1 folder. Use options so that long format is used and hidden files are also shown. Paste screenshot of the output of 1s.
- 6. Give answer of question 1 of Analysis.
- 7. Identify rights of owner, group and everybody else by observing the output of 1s. Also find out the type of each file using file command. Copy the following table in your report and fill it with your observations:

File / dir name	File type	Owner rights	Group rights	Others' rights

Table 1.12: Identification of user rights from Is output

- 8. Now create a folder named "txtfiles" using mkdir command inside the lab1 folder.
- 9. Use cp command along with an appropriate *wildcard* to copy all files with .txt extension to the txtfiles folder. After the copy has successfully completed, use 1s command to list the contents of txtfiles folder. Paste screenshot showing the cp command and 1s command output in your report.
- 10. Remove the files that have a .txt file extension from the lab1 folder using rm command. Paste command.
- 11. Create another folder named "BSCE" inside lab1 folder and *move* all files ending with two digits using mv command and an appropriate wildcard. Again, use 1s to view folder contents and paste screenshot of mv command and 1s command output in your report.

1.5 Task 2: Command pipelining and I/O redirection [Marks: 10]

1. The files that you have moved inside the BSEE folder contain roll numbers of students of each batch. These roll numbers are not sorted inside these files and some are also duplicate. Sort the BSCE19 file using sort command and remove duplicates using uniq command. Use touch command to create a new file "BSCE_sorted". Then use standard output so that this file would contain the sorted roll numbers from the file BSCE19. Paste screenshot of all commands used in this step in your report.

- 2. Display the contents of BSCE_sorted file on the terminal using the cat command. Paste screenshot of result.
- 3. Now, use **sort** and **uniq** to sort and remove duplicates from the other file. Output these roll numbers to the same BSCE_sorted file without changing its previous contents. Paste screenshot of the command in your report.
- 4. Display the contents of BSCE_sorted file on the terminal using cat command. Paste screenshot.
- 5. Now, change working directory to txtfiles folder.
- 6. Using grep command, standard output and pipelining, write a single-line command with pipelining that would search in all files in txtfiles folder for lines that contain the phrase "Operating Systems Lab" and output the result to a new file named "Search result". Use grep so that the search is not case-sensitive. Paste screenshot of your command.
- 7. Give answer of questions 2 and 3 of Analysis.
- 8. Use cat and less commands to display the contents of the Search_result file. Paste screenshot in your report.

1.6 Analysis [Marks: 5]

1.	Which directories do the first two rows of the ls output represent? Note down your answer in lab report.	[2]
2.	What option did you use with grep to make sure that the search is not case-sensitive?	[1]
3.	What would happen if the order in which commands are pipelined is changed? Explain.	[2]

Assessment rubric for Lab 1

Performance	CLO	Able to complete the tasks over 80%	Able to complete the tasks 50 - 80%	Tasks completion below 50%	Marks
1. Realization of experiment	1	(4 – 5) Conceptually understands the topic under study and develops the experimental setup accordingly	Needs guidance to understand the purpose of the experiment and to develop the required setup	(0-1) Incapable of understanding the purpose of the experiment and consequently fails to develop the required setup	
2. Conducting experiment	1	Sets up the required software, writes and executes bash/C/C++ programs according to the requirement of task and examines the program output carefully	Needs assistance in setting up the software, makes minor errors in writing codes according to task requirements	Unable to set up the software and to write and execute program according to task requirements	
3. Data collection	1	Interprets program output and completes data collection as required in the lab task, ensures that the data is entered in the lab report according to the specified instructions	Completes data collection with minor errors and enters data in lab report with slight deviations from provided guidelines	Fails at observing output states of experimental setup and collecting data, unable to fill the lab report properly	
4. Data analysis	1	Analyzes the data obtained from experiment thoroughly and accurately verifies it with theoretical understanding, accounts for any discrepancy in data from theory with sound explanation, where asked	Analyzes data with minor error and correlates it with theoretical values reasonably. Attempts to account for any discrepancy in data from theory	Unable to establish a relationship between practical and theoretical results and lacks in-depth understanding to justify the results or to explain any discrepancy in data	
5. Computer use	1	Possesses sufficient hands- on ability to work with Linux OS, GNU toolchain and other relevant software	Is able to work on Linux OS with GNU toolchain or other relevant software with some assistance	Cannot operate the Linux OS and other software without significant assistance	
6. Teamwork	3	Actively engages and cooperates with other group members in an effective manner	Cooperates with other group members in a reasonable manner	Distracts or discourages other group members from conducting the experiments	
7. Lab safety and disciplinary rules	3	Observes lab safety rules; and adheres to the lab disciplinary guidelines aptly	Observes safety rules and disciplinary guidelines with minor deviations	Disregards lab safety and disciplinary rules	
				Total (out of 35)	