Content   Objectives

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>_ Ubuntu PC ▾

[Toggle onscreen keyboard]

On Moving Files

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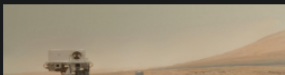
```
mv animals.txt zoo.txt
```

```
sysadmin@localhost:~/Documents$ ls
School            alpha-second.txt   hello.sh        newhome.txt   red.t
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.

Penguins In Space!

NASA Uses Linux

International Space Station runs on Linux
"We migrated key functions from Windows
to Linux because we needed an operating
system that was stable and reliable."

Curiosity the Mars Rover

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