

```
$ pwd
/users/john
$
```

pwd prints the absolute pathname of your working directory.

cd

You can change your working directory to any directory (including another user's directory—if you have permission) with the **cd** (change directory) command.

The **cd** command has the form:

```
cd pathname
```

The argument is an absolute or a relative pathname (whichever is easier) for the directory you want to change to:

```
$ cd /users/carol
$ pwd
/users/carol
$ cd work
$ pwd
/users/carol/work
$
```



Here's a timesaver: the command **cd**, with no arguments, takes you to your home directory from wherever you are in the filesystem.

Note that you can only change to another directory. You cannot **cd** to a filename. If you try, your shell (in this example, **bash**) gives you an error message:

```
$ cd /etc/passwd
bash: /etc/passwd: Not a directory
$
```

/etc/passwd is a file with information about users' accounts.

Files in the Directory Tree

A directory can hold subdirectories. And, of course, a directory can hold files. Figure 3-4 is a close-up of the filesystem around *john's* home directory. The four files are shown along with the *work* subdirectory.