The following commands are common Linux commands used in the BASH shell. Linux commands are very similar, and in many cases identical, to UNIX commands, so the ability to work effectively in many UNIX’s and Linux distributions is increased.

The actual command is in italics while the options and parameters are bolded. Each command is followed by an example in plain text.

Note that, for simplicity, not all options or parameters are shown. Following a command with “--help” will often provide a wealth of information. Also using form “man *command*” will provide extensive documentation on almost any Linux or UNIX.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *pwd* |  | Used to print the current directory to the screen. (ie: where am I ?) |
| *cat* | **Filename**  cat /etc/passwd | Reads a text file |
| *ls* | **-l (long listing), –h (report sizes in appropriate units ie: kilobytes, megabytes, etc.), -a (show all files and directories, even hidden ones)**  ls –alh /etc | Lists the file and subdirectories in the current directory. Equivalent to the MSDOS “dir” command. |
| *mv* | **Original-filename new-filename**  mv test.txt old\_test.txt | Used to rename a file or directory. Note that the original name will be gone after the command is executed. |
| *cp* | **/path/sourcefilename /path/destfilename**  **sourcefilename destfilename**  **/path/sourcefilename .**  cp /root/index.html /var/www/html/index.html | Used to copy files or directories. There are many ways to use this command. The “.” can be used in place of a destination and will use the current directory. |
| *rm* | **Filename**  rm garbagefile.txt | Deletes a file. There is no “undelete” but may be in the garbage can. |
| *mkdir* | **Directory**  **/path/directory**  mkdir /opt/assignments | Creates a new directory |
| *cd* | **/path/directory**  **Path/directory**  cd /opt/assignments | Changes the current directory. |
| *more* | **Filename**  more longtextfile.txt | Displays output one screen at a time. Space bar moves to next screen. |
| *chmod* | **755 filename**  chmod 700 secretfile.txt | Changes the permissions on a file or directory |
| *chown* | **Username filename**  chown jsmith assignment1.txt | Changes the owner of a file or directory |
| *su* | **Username**  su root | Temporarily changes the current user. You will be asked for the destination user’s password if you are not logged in as “root”. |
| *whoami* |  | Displays the username you are currently logged in as. |
| *ifconfig*  *Or*  *ip addr* |  | Displays the IP address of the computer you are working on. The *ifconfig* command is popular but is being depreciated in favor of the *ip addr* command. |
| *passwd* |  | Gives you the opportunity to change your login password. |