Operating Systems

Lab 02: Exploring the System

Content



Content

ls Command

Manual and Help

File Type and File Content

Linux Filesystem

Symbolic Links and Hard Links

• *ls* used to see directory contents and determine a variety of important file and directory attributes.

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~/Desktop$ cd ~
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public Templates Videos
```

 Besides the current working directory, we can specify the directory to list, like so:

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls /usr
bin include lib32 libexec local share
games lib <u>l</u>ib64 libx32 sbin src
```

- We can even specify multiple directories.
 - O In the following example, we list both the user's home directory (symbolized by the "~" character) and the /usr directory.

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls ~ /usr
/home/lvl3:
        Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public Templates
Desktop
                                                                   Videos
/usr:
bin
      include lib32
                     libexec local
                                      share
       lib
               lib64
                      libx32
                                sbin
games
                                       SIC
```

• ls has option -l to show more details about the files and directories. • the -l option causes is to display its results in long format.

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -l
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Desktop
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Music
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Videos
```

```
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Music
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر 24 Videos
```

First value indicates file type. "d" for directory, "-" for a file

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -l
total 32

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Music
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Videos
```

Indicates file permissions. "r" = read, "w" = write, "x" = execute.

Owner	Group	World
rwx	rwx	rwx

Number of hard links to the file. The link is between the filename and the actual data stored on the filesystem.

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -l
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Desktop
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Music
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
```

File owner

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -l

total 32

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Documents

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Music

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
```

File group

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -l

total 32

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096

drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096
```

File size in bytes

Date and time of the file's last modification.

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -l
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Desktop
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
```

File name

 Commands are often followed by one or more options and arguments that modify their behaviour.

```
command -options arguments
```

• In the following example, the ls command is given two options, which are the l option to produce long format output, and the t option to sort the result by the file's modification time.

```
الالعوالية الماع العوالية الماع العوالية العوال
```

• We can use -reverse option to reverse the order

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -r
Videos Public Music Documents b.txt
Templates Pictures Downloads Desktop a.txt
```

- \circ We can use it with -lt option:
- Note that command options, like filenames in Linux, are case-sensitive.

```
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Videos
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Music
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 lvl3 lvl3 4096 17:23 24 فبر Desktop
-rw-rw-r-- 1 lvl3 lvl3 4096 27 فبر Documents
```

• Options for *ls*

Option	Long Option	Description
-a	all	List all files, even those with names that begin with a period, which are normally not listed (that is, hidden).
- A	almost-all	Like the -a option above except it does not list . (current directory) and (parent directory).
-d	directory	Ordinarily, if a directory is specified, 1s will list the contents of the directory, not the directory itself. Use this option in conjunction with the -1 option to see details about the directory rather than its contents.
-F	classify	This option will append an indicator character to the end of each listed name. For example, a forward slash (/) if the name is a directory.
-h	human-readable	In long format listings, display file sizes in human readable format rather than in bytes.
-1		Display results in long format.
-r	reverse	Display the results in reverse order. Normally, 1s displays its results in ascending alphabetical order.
-S		Sort results by file size.
-t		Sort by modification time.

• ls - a

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -a
       .bash_history
                     b.txt
                               Desktop
                                                  Pictures
                                                            Templates
                                          .gnupg
       .bash_logout
                                                  .profile Videos
                      .cache
                               Documents
                                          .local
       .bashrc
a.txt
                      .config
                              Downloads
                                          Music
                                                  Public
```

• ls - A

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -A
a.txt
      .bashrc
                                                   Public
                      .config
                                Downloads
                                          Music
.bash_history b.txt
                      Desktop
                                          Pictures
                                                   Templates
                                .gnupg
.bash logout
                                          .profile
                                                   Videos
            .cache
                      Documents
                                .local
```

• ls - ld: see details about the directory rather than its contents.

```
<mark>lvl3@lvl3-vm:~</mark>$ ls -ld
drwxr-xr-x 14 lv<u>l</u>3 lvl3 4096 00:26 27 فبر .
```

```
ls — F
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ ls -F
a.txt Desktop/ Downloads/ Pictures/ Templates/
b.txt Documents/ Music/ Public/ Videos/
```

• ls - lh: to show file size in human readable formats rather than bytes

Content

Content

ls Command



Manual and Help

File Type and File Content

Linux Filesystem

Symbolic Links and Hard Links

• Display commands' manual in Linux: man [command name]

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ man ls
```

```
LS(1)
                                                                         LS(1)
                                User Commands
NAME
      ls - list directory contents
SYNOPSIS
      ls [OPTION]... [FILE]...
DESCRIPTION
      List information about the FILEs (the current directory by default).
      Sort entries alphabetically if none of -cftuvSUX nor --sort is speci-
      fied.
      Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options
      too.
       -a. --all
             do not ignore entries starting with .
       -A, --almost-all
             do not list implied . and ..
       --author
                         (press h for help or q to quit)
                  line 1
```

• Display a short help about a command: $help\ [command]$

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ help pwd
pwd: pwd [-LP]
   Print the name of the current working directory.
   Options:
                print the value of $PWD if it names the current working
     -|
                directory
     -P
                print the physical directory, without any symbolic links
   By default, `pwd' behaves as if `-L' were specified.
   Exit Status:
   Returns 0 unless an invalid option is given or the current directory
   cannot be read.
```

• Display a help about *help* command: *help help*

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ help help
help: help [-dms] [pattern ...]
   Display information about builtin commands.
   Displays brief summaries of builtin commands. If PATTERN is
   specified, gives detailed help on all commands matching PATTERN,
   otherwise the list of help topics is printed.
   Options:
     -d
               output short description for each topic
               display usage in pseudo-manpage format
      - M
               output only a short usage synopsis for each topic matching
      - S
               PATTERN
   Arguments:
     PATTERN
               Pattern specifying a help topic
   Exit Status:
   Returns success unless PATTERN is not found or an invalid option is given.
```

• Display information about a command: $info\ [command]$

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ info cal
```

```
CAL(1)
                          BSD General Commands Manual
                                                                         CAL(1)
NAME
     cal, ncal — displays a calendar and the date of Easter
SYNOPSIS
     cal [-31jy] [-A number] [-B number] [-d yyyy-mm] [[month] year]
     cal [-31j] [-A number] [-B number] [-d yyyy-mm] -m month [year]
     ncal [-C] [-31jy] [-A number] [-B number] [-d yyyy-mm] [[month] year]
     ncal [-C] [-31j] [-A number] [-B number] [-d yyyy-mm] -m month [year]
     ncal [-31bhjJpwySM] [-A number] [-B number] [-H yyyy-mm-dd] [-d yyyy-mm]
         [-s country code] [[month] year]
     ncal [-31bhJeoSM] [-A number] [-B number] [-d yyyy-mm] [year]
DESCRIPTION
     The cal utility displays a simple calendar in traditional format and neal
     offers an alternative layout, more options and the date of Easter. The
     new format is a little cramped but it makes a year fit on a 25x80 termi-
     nal. If arguments are not specified, the current month is displayed.
     The options are as follows:
```

Content

Content

ls Command

Manual and Help



File Type and File Content

Linux Filesystem

Symbolic Links and Hard Links

File Type and File Content

• Use the *file* command to determine a file's type.

```
file filename
```

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ file a.jpg
a.jpg: JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01, resolution (DPI), density 300x300, s
egment length 16, Exif Standard: [TIFF image data, little-endian, direntries=1,
description=Picturesque morning in Plitvice National Park. Colorful spring scene
  of green forest with pure ], progressive, precision 8, 612x408, components 3
```

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ file a.txt
a.txt: empty
```

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ file a
a: cannot open `a' (No such file or directory)
```

File Type and File Content

• The less command is a program to view text files.

```
less filename
```

- The *passwd* file defines all the system's user accounts
 - Start the directory with "/"

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ less etc/passwd
etc/passwd: No such file or directory
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ less /etc/passwd
```

○ To exit less, press the q key.

File Type and File Content

- The *more* command like *less* command, but it shows fewer data
 - Press enter to show more data.

```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~$ more /etc/passwd
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

- The less command shows all the data, but you need to scroll.
- \circ When exiting more command, the text remains in the console, but when exiting less command the text disappears from console.

Content

Content

ls Command

Manual and Help

File Type and File Content



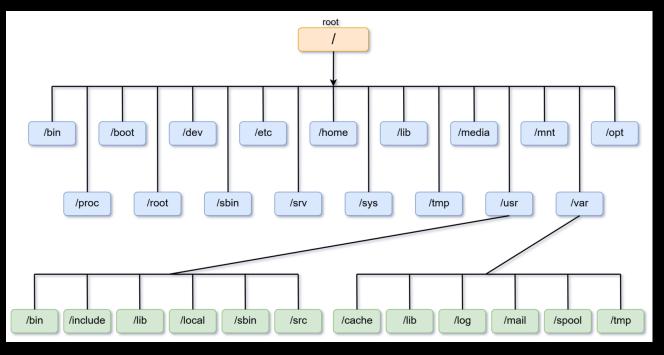
Symbolic Links and Hard Links



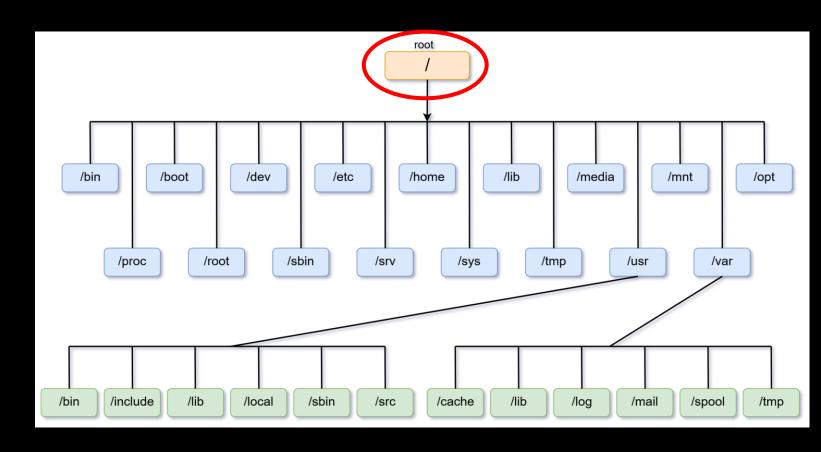
 Linux file system is a built-in layer of a Linux used to handle the data management of the storage. It helps to arrange the file on the disk storage.

 It manages the file name, file size, creation date, and much more information about a file.

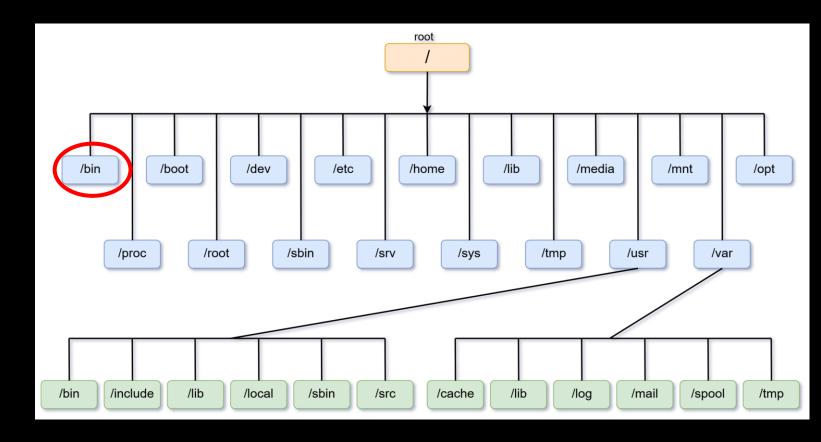
```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:~/Desktop$ cd /
lvl3@lvl3-vm:/$ ls
bin dev lib libx32 mnt root snap sys var
boot etc lib32 lost+found opt run srv tmp
cdrom home lib64 media proc sbin swapfile usr
```



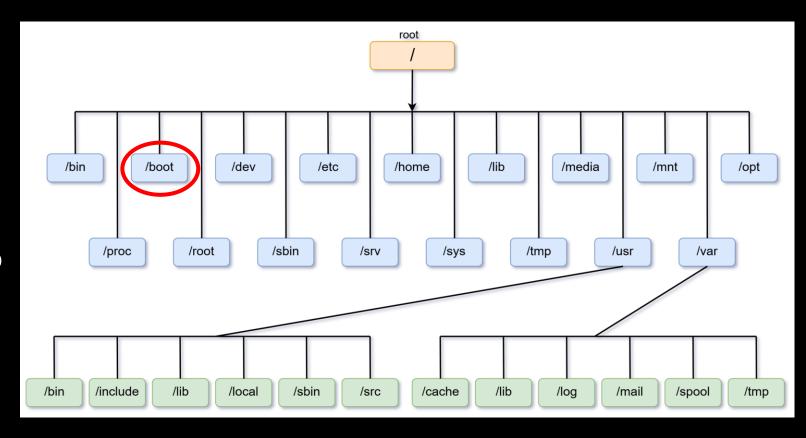
The root directory.
 Where everything begins.



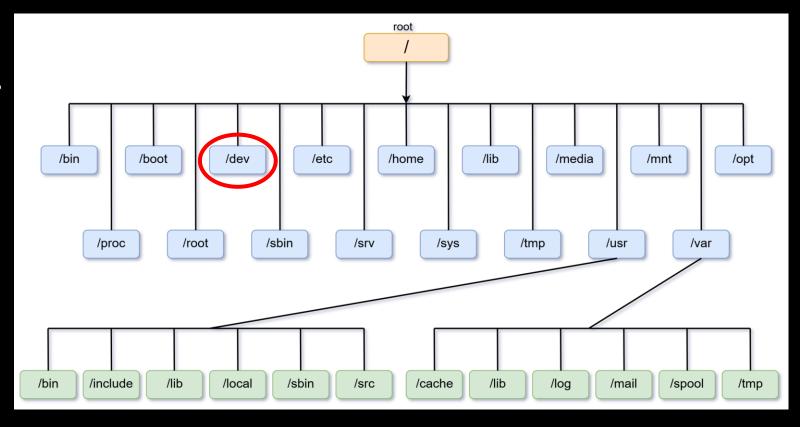
Contains binaries
 (programs) that must be
 present for the system to
 boot and run.



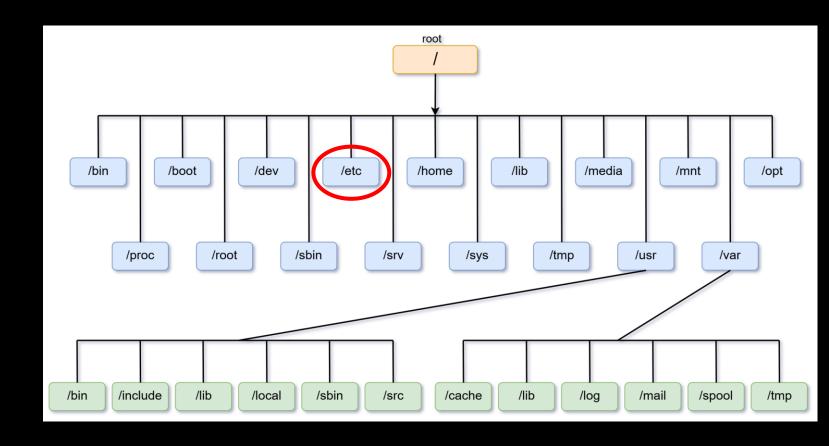
- Contains the Linux kernel, initial RAM disk image and the boot loader.
- Interesting files:
 - /boot/grub/grub.conf or menu.lst, which are used to configure the boot loader.
 - /boot/vmlinuzthe Linux kernel



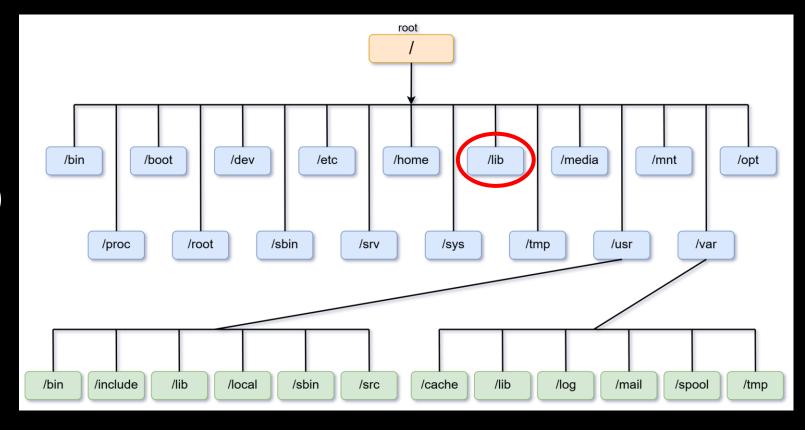
- This is a special directory that contains device nodes.
- "Everything is a file" also applies to devices.
- Here is where the kernel maintains a list of all the devices it understands.



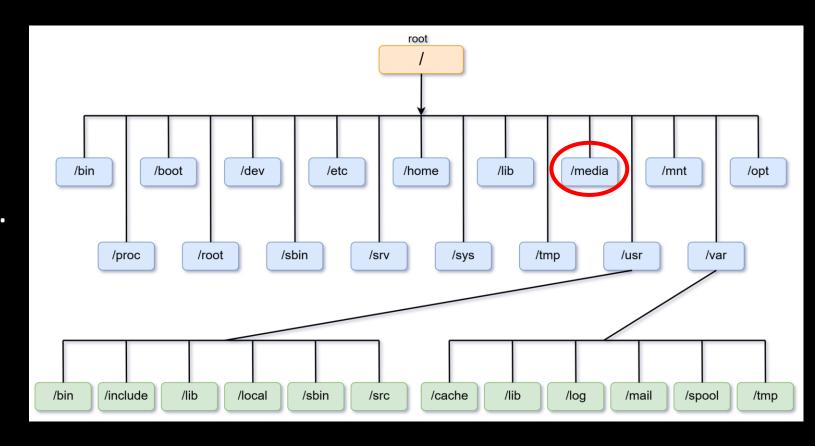
- Contains:
 - Configuration files.
 - Shell scripts that start the system services at boot time.
- Interesting files:
 - /etc/passwd, a list of the user accounts.



- Contains shared library files used by the core system programs.
 - These are similar to dynamic link libraries (DLLs) in Windows.

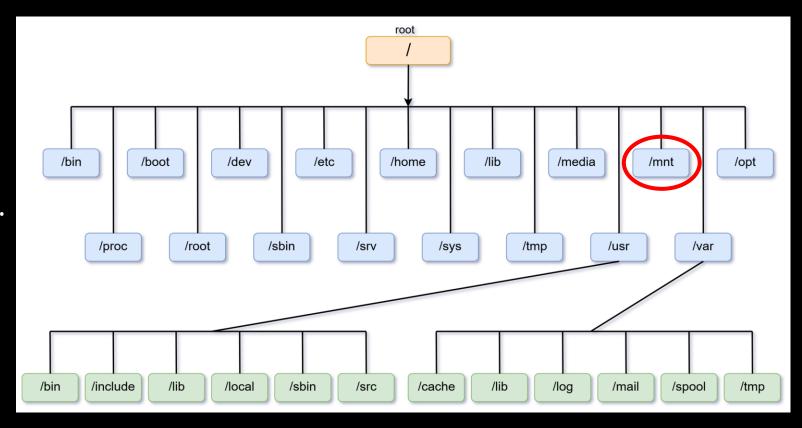


- Contain the mount points for removable media such as USB drives, CD-ROMs, etc. that are mounted automatically at insertion.
 - Used in modern Linux systems.



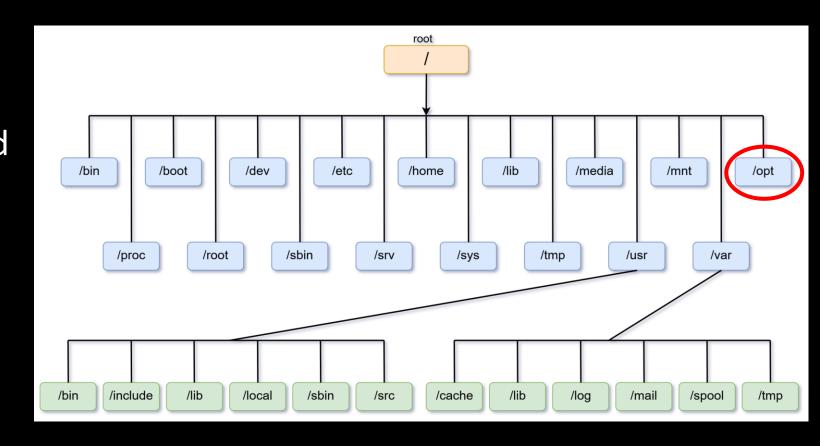
Linux Filesystem

- Contains mount points for removable devices that have been mounted manually.
 - Used in older Linux systems.



Linux Filesystem

- Used to install "optional" software.
- This is mainly used to hold commercial software products that might be installed on the system.



Content

Content

ls Command

Manual and Help

File Type and File Content

Linux Filesystem



- Symbolic link (soft link) is a type of file in Linux that points to another file or a folder on your computer.
 - Similar to shortcuts in Windows
- Let's explore the attributes of /lib directory

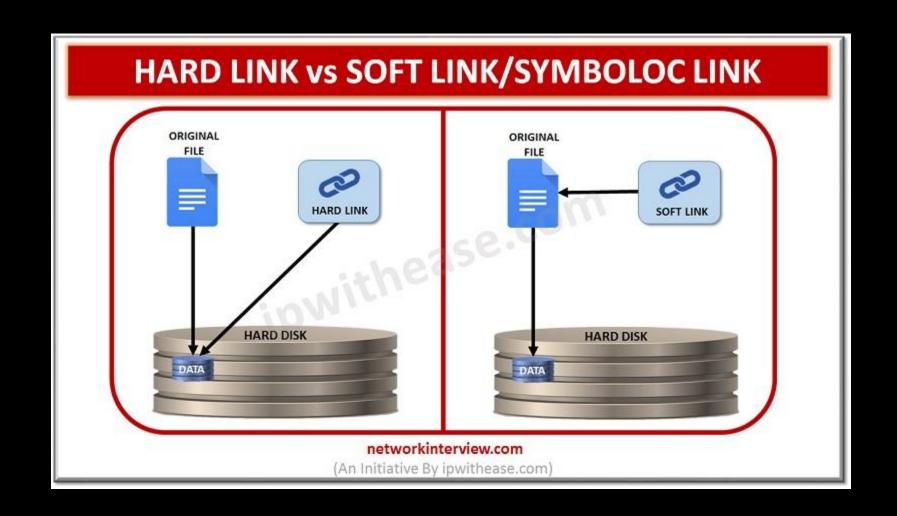
```
lvl3@lvl3-vm:/$ ls -l /lib
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 7 16:58 24 فبر /lib -> usr/lib
```

- The first letter is "I", not "d" or "-". This is means that it is a symbolic link.
- The last value indicates that the file "/lib" points to a shared directory "/usr/lib".

- Why use symbolic links? (https://stackoverflow.com/questions/58314491/what-is-the-purpose-of-creating-a-symbolic-link-between-files)
 - This allows you to have multiple "access points" to a file, without having excess copies (that remain up to date, since they always access the same file).
- Imagine this scenario: suppose that there is a shared file "foo 1" that accessed by many processes/users. This file always updated.
 - When updating the file to version "foo 2", we need to change every process that access the file.
 - But, when we use symbolic links, we create a symbol link "foo" that points to "foo 1".
 The process/users now refer to the symbolic link "foo" that points to "foo 1".
 - When we update "foo 1" to "foo 2", we change its symbolic link only to point to "foo 2", the processes/users don't need to change the filename.
 - Also, it is easier to revert to the older version.

- A hard link is a file all its own, and the file references or points to the exact spot on a hard drive where the node stores the data.
- By default, every file has a single hard link that gives the file its name.
 - When we create a hard link, we create an additional directory entry for a file.
- When a hard link is deleted, the link is removed but the contents of the file itself continue to exist (that is, its space is not deallocated) until all links to the file are deleted.

- Imagine this scenario: we have a file "foo 1" that points to a location on the hard drive, where the data is stored.
 - When you open the file and change it, the data on the hard are changed too.
 - When we create a hard link to "foo", we create a new file ("foo 2") that points the same location of "foo 1" (the same content)
 - A change in the content of a file through any hard link, applies to the other hard link.



Exercise

- Open the manual of ls command
- What is "--color" option. How it works?
- How list the files without listing the owner?
- Print the index number of each file on the hard disk.
- What is the difference between -r and -R options.

Exercise

- Open the manual of ls command
 - o man ls
- What is "--color" option. How it works?
 - \circ Colorize the output; ls --color = 'never'; ls --color = 'auto'
- How list the files without listing the owner?
 - \circ ls -g
- Print the index number of each file on the hard disk.
 - $\circ ls i$
- What is the difference between -r and -R options.
 - \circ -r displays the files in reverse order, -R recursively displays directories and its content.

Summary

- *ls* with options
- help
- info
- *man*
- file
- less
- more

TASK

- List files by sorting them by file size.
- Display the calendar without highlighting of today.
- Display the calendar of May and October months.
- How to print the size of the current directory?
- What the command " $du \sim -h$ " does?