**Computing Basics Workshops – Basic Unix commands**

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| **Command** | **How to use it** | **What it does** |
| cat | cat  cat FILENAME | concatenate/combine contents of file(s), display file contents on screen  display contents of a file named FILENAME |
| cd | cd  cd DIRNAME  cd ..  cd - | change directory  navigate to your home directory  navigate to the directory named DIRNAME  go one level up in the directory tree structure  go to the previous directory |
| chmod | chmod  chmod +x | change mode - change file or directory permissions  change mode - change file permissions to executable |
| echo | echo  echo file1 | displays lines of text, very useful for debugging shell scripts  displays lines of text in file1 |
| grep | grep  grep mkdir | search and print files or text strings matching a pattern  find files containing mkdir |
| ls | ls  ls -l  ls -a | list files in current directory  list files in long format with file/directory permissions, etc.  list all files in current location including dot files |
| man | man command  man touch | view manual (man) page for a command  view manual (man) page for the touch command |
| mkdir | mkdir  mkdir folder1 | make a directory  make a directory named folder1 |
| mv | mv file1 folder2 | move file or directory  move file1 into folder2, file1 will no longer exist in that location |
| cp | cp  cp file1 file2  Cp file1 folder1 | Make copy of a file  Make a copy of file1, save it with name file2 (in current location)  Make a copy of file1, save it in folder1 (folder1 in current location) |
| pwd | pwd | print working directory - print current location (path) in file-tree structure |
| history | history | list all commands run in that session |
| ps | ps | process status - show processes that are running |
| rm | rm file1  rmdir folder1  rm -rf | remove file or directory  remove/delete file1  remove/delete directory folder1 (directory must be empty)  recursively (r) go through directory and delete any files encountered. force (f) the removal (don’t bother prompting me) |
| sleep | sleep  sleep 120s | suspend program execution for a specified time  suspend program execution for 120 seconds |
| touch | touch file1 | create new empty file called file1 |
| & | command&  sleep 120s& | start a command process in the background  suspend program execution for 120 seconds in the background |

For additional information about a command, run man command in the terminal or search Linux manual (man) pages [online](http://man.he.net/). Cheat sheets like this [Unix cheat sheet](http://www.mathcs.emory.edu/~valerie/courses/fall10/155/resources/unix_cheatsheet.html) or this [Linux CLI cheat sheet](https://cheatography.com/davechild/cheat-sheets/linux-command-line/) can help as well. **Wild cards**: The \* symbol is a wild card in Linux. It matches any character or set of characters, for example ls history.\* will list all files named history, regardless of the extension