



In computer science, we do a lot of work on the terminal. As you gain familiarity with the command prompt, you'll often find that it's easy to type exactly what you mean instead of relying on a graphical tool. However, if you're not sure what to do, the graphical tools in your file manager or IDE can help you organize your files.

Here are some more terminal commands you might want to be familiar with. (These commands are for the Bash terminal that is common on Linux.)

## Administrator commands

### sudo

The "sudo" prefix command means this command will temporarily be executed with system administrator permissions. (The "su" part comes from "superuser", which means system administrator. Other terms for this are "root user" or simply "administrator".) Such commands are potentially dangerous because they can take control of your system. In this course, please only enter terminal commands that we have told you about. If a random stranger on the internet tells you to type a command in the terminal, you should be suspicious, *especially* if the command uses "su," "sudo," etc. If you are trying to follow some tutorial instructions published on a reputable website, then you should gauge whether the information is trustworthy before entering commands in your terminal. Sites like StackOverflow use community curation to guard against misleading or dangerous information, but you should still exercise caution.

## Common commands

### man

The **man** command ("manual") shows help information for other commands. For example, **man man** will display the help information for **man** itself. To quit the help viewer screen, press the **q** key.

### pwd

The pwd command, "print working directory," will display the full name of the path you are in currently. This is mainly useful if you are using a terminal that doesn't already show that information at the command prompt.