2. Some Simple UNIX Commands

The following are some simple basic UNIX commands / utilities that you will type at the prompt for your shell to run.

Lab 2.1 - who

who

To look at information on users & the system, the who command is used. This shows who is on the system. The who utility lists the user's name, terminal, login time & date, and the process-ID of the command interpreter (shell) for each user.

who am i
user3025   pts/43   Jan 8 11:56   (175.3.47.13)

This shows your own details.

Lab 2.2 - w

w

The w command displays information about currently logged-in users. The w command displays a summary of the current activity on the system, including what each user is doing.

Lab 2.3 - listusers

To see all the users on the system:

listusers	*// lists all system users*
listusers –g third_yrs	*// lists users in the third_yrs group*
Groups	// Displays the different groups there are, e.g. staff

(To see what groups you are in type **id)**

Lab 2.4 - finger

finger name	*// e.g. finger user3924*

Finger command displays detailed information about users including:

- Login name.
- User's full name.

- Home directory.

- Shell name.

- Login time & date.

- Terminal name.

- Host name, if logged in remotely.

Lab 2.5 - date

date   *Returns the day, date, time and year*

Lab 2.6 - cal

cal 1999   *returns the calendar for the year 1999*

cal 9 2004   *returns the calendar for the month of September 2004*

Lab 2.7 – man (help menu)

To find out more about a command, type the man command followed by the name of the command. The following example displays information about the cal command:

man cal

2.8 echo & banner – Print out some text

The **echo** command is used to print text to the screen. It prints everything you type after it. For example:

echo "Hello"

hello

Or to print up to 10 characters in a very large font the banner command is used. For example:
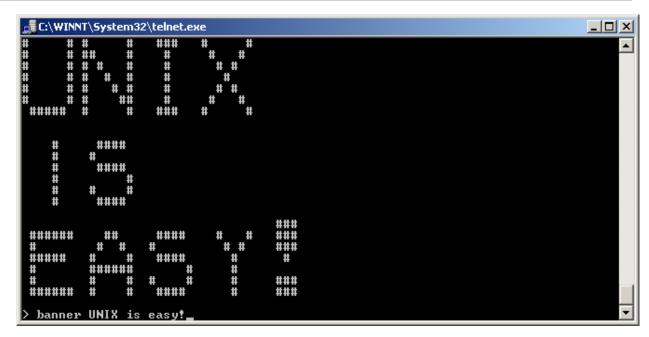
banner "Hello"   *see figure 2.1 below*

Figure 2.1: The Banner command