7. Moving, Renaming and Removing Files

This lab will explain how to move files and directories around the UNIX filesystem, how to rename files and directories and how to remove files.

Lab 7.1 – Moving files

The UNIX mv command moves files and directories. You can move a file to a different location in the filesystem, or change the name by moving the file within the current location.

To move a file from one place to another, use the **mv** command. This has the effect of moving rather than copying the file, so you end up with only one file rather than two.

It can also be used to rename a file (see Lab 7.2), by "moving" the file to the same directory, but giving it a different name.

We are now going to move the file **zeebrafile2** to your **training2** directory.
First, make sure you are in your home directory by typing **cd**

```
mv zeebrafile2 training2/
```

Type **ls** and **ls training2** to see if it has worked, which it has. Zeebrafile2 no longer exists in the home directory and is now in the training2 directory instead.

Lab 7.2 - Renaming a Files and Directories

Unix does not have a command specifically for renaming files and directories. Instead, the mv command is used, either to change the name of a file, or to move a file into a different directory.

To change the name of a file, use the following command:

cat apple2 - to check the contents of the apple2 file

mv apple2 rotten

ls - *to check what files are left and what is created. apple2 is gone but rotten is created*

cat rotten – *to check if the contents of the rotten file are the same as the old apple2 file*

The result of this command is that there is no longer a file called apple2, but a new file called rotten contains what was previously in apple2. It has been renamed

Like cp, the mv command also overwrites existing files.

Lab 7.3 - rm (removing files)

Be very carefull when removing files – you cannot recover what you delete in UNIX and you might remove something by mistake. Typing **rm * *(do not type!!)*** for example would wipe your entire directory.

To remove the **rotten** file that you placed in your current directory type:

```
rm rotten
```

It is good practise to make sure before you use the rm command. An even better way is to use interactive delete with the –i option:

```
rm -i apple3
rm: remove apple3 (yes/no)? no
```

To remove a directory the command rmdir is used as you were shown. This command only worked if the directory speficied is *empty*. To remove a directory with files in it use the command rm -r *directory-name* (for recursive). Be carefull when doing this however and always use the i option with it:

```
rm -ir training2/dir1
rm: remove dir1 (yes/no)? no
```

Lab 7.4 - Some simple History Commands

The "history" command gives you a method for repeating commands entered earlier in your session. By typing

```
history
```

you will get a list of all your previously entered commands – 50 by default. Three examples of its use:

!! **!! –** repeats last command
Refers to the previous command.

!*n* **!3 –** repeats third entry in history list
Refers to history line *n*.

!*str* **!c –** repeats most recent command starting with c
Refers to the most recent command that started with the string *str*.

Refer to the manual pages for any further interest

Exercise 7.1

Do the following in order:

- In your home directory, create a directory called **Exercise2** with a directory **store1** inside it.
- Inside in **store1** create another directory called **holdings**.
- Create a blank file in your home directory called **ex2**.
- Create another file called **classfile** with the calendar for the year you were born in it.
- Create a copy of **classfile** with the ***same name*** in the **store1** directory.
- Rename **classfile** in your home directory to **datefile**.
- Create a file called **timefile** in your home directory with todays date and time.
- Create a new file called **addfile** containing the contents of **timefile** and **datefile**.
- Add a list of all your files in your home directory to the end of **addfile**
- Add a history of all your commands to the end of **addfile**
- Make a copy of this file in your **Exercise2** directory called **copyfile**
- Make a copy of the **Exercise2** directory and call it **Ex2Copy**
- Delete the original directory **Exercise2**
- Remove the files **datefile**, **timefile** and **addfile**.