**Command Line Cheat Sheet**

**Command Line**

* A text-based interface.
* *Synonyms*: command line interface (CLI) console

**Terminal**

* An OS X application that provides text-based access to a computer's operating system.
* Any device or application used for data entry and display in a computer system.
* *Synonyms*: client, computer terminal, terminal emulator

**File System**

* A file system is a systematic way to control how information is stored and retrieved on a computer. It describes where one piece of information stops and the next one begins. Each file system has its own structure and logic.
* *Synonyms*: NTFS (Windows' File System), HFS+ (Apple's File System), file allocation table, GFS (Global File System)

**Directory**

* A unit, or container, used to organize computer files into a hierarchical structure.
* *Synonyms*: folder, catalog, drawer

**Path**

* A sequence of symbols and names that identifies a file or directory. The path always starts from your working directory or from the root directory, and each sub-directory is followed by a forward slash.
* An *absolute*, or full, path begins with the root directory and specifies every directory above the terminating file or directory name.
* A *relative* path does not include the root or parent directory names and refers to a file or directory directly below the current working directory.
* *Synonyms*: path name

**Command**

* The action we want the computer to take; always a single word.
* *Synonyms*: utility

**Option**

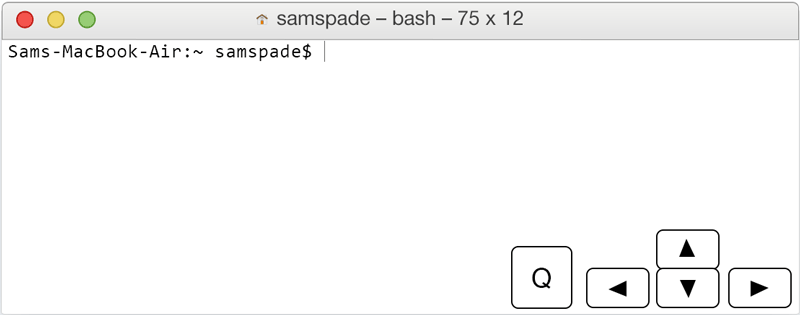
* Follows the "command" in a command line; used to modify the behavior of the command in some way.
* *Synonyms*: flag

**Argument**

* Follows the "command" and "options" (if any) in a command line and is used to explain what we want the command to act upon.
* The number of arguments used generally depends on the command; some don't need arguments, some require exactly one argument, some require many arguments, and some are flexible in the number they can take.

| **Command** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| pwd -options | Prints the working directory; returns the absolute path name of the current directory |
| ls [-options] [path/to/directory] | Lists directory contents |
| cd [-options] [path/to/directory] | Changes the current working directory to the specified directory |
| mkdir [-options] [path/to/directory] | Makes a new directory |
| rm -r [path/to/file] [path/to/file] ... | Removes directories or files permanently |
| mv [-options] [path/to/file] [path/to/directory] | Moves directories or files to a new locale |
| mv [-options] [path/to/file] [NEW\_FILE\_NAME] | Renames a file or directory |

On Mac, your terminal comes with a manual. To access more (*a lot more*) information about any command, type man, followed by the command name, and press Enter:



You can scroll through a manual entry using the arrow keys or space bar. To quit this view and return to your prompt, type q