


# Mac-Friendly Terminal Cheat Sheet

## Command History

**history n**

Shows the stuff you've typed - add a number to limit to the last *n* items.

**ctrl-r** 

Interactively search through previously typed commands.

**!searchtext**

Execute the last command typed that starts with 'searchtext'.

**!!**

Execute the last command you typed.

**command !\***

Execute 'command' with the same parameters used previously.

**tab** 

Pressing tab will attempt to automatically complete the command you've begun typing.

## Useful Commands

**top** 

Shows active processes. Press q to quit.

**sudo command**

Run a command as super user - type in your password when prompted.

**open command**

Opens a file as if you double clicked it.


**find -name filename | xargs grep text**

For file names matching 'filename', search their contents for 'text'.

**screen**

Amazingly useful screen manager: read the manual!

## Emergencies

**echo command** 

This causes the terminal to print out 'command', showing you expansions:

```
g5:~ alex$ echo ls ~ $HOSTNAME
ls /Users/alex g5.local
```

**reset**

This resets the terminal's display, which is useful if it becomes corrupted somehow.

## Text Shortcuts

**ctrl-a** 

Jump to the start of the line.

**ctrl-e** 

Jump to the end of the line.

**ctrl-k** 

Delete all text to the right of the cursor.

**ctrl-y** 

Paste text that you last deleted with these commands.

**command !\***

Execute 'command' with the same parameters used previously.

## Process Control

**ctrl-d**

Sends end of file, will stop some processes that are waiting for an EOF.

**ctrl-z**

Stops the currently running command.

**fg**

Continues running the stopped command.

**kill PID**

Kills a process with an ID of 'PID'.

**killall name**

Kills a process called 'name'.

**ps aux**

Lists active processes.

## Help Yourself

**man command**

Show the help for 'command'.

**whatis command**

Gives a one-line description of 'command'.

**apropos string**

Search the whatis database for 'string'.