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LINUX COMMAND LINE INTERFACE

UBUNTU 23.04 LTS

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Note:

The following websites have been used for reference:
- *https://explainshell.com/explain?cmd=ls*
- *https://www.fosslinux.com/103546/the-beginners-guide-to-using-terminal-on-linux-mint.htm*
- *https://linuxcommand.org/lc3_lts0010.php*

The following information is not considered 'perfect' and is purely for testing purposes. If you choose to utilise the information provided you do so at your own risk.
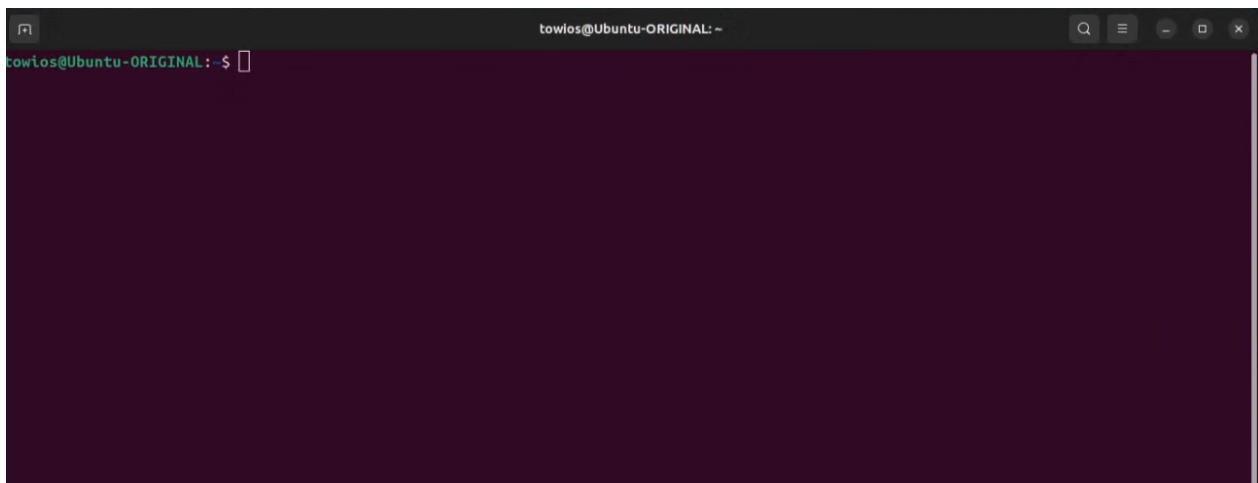
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00: INTRODUCTION TO THE CLI

ACCESSING THE COMMAND LINE INTERFACE

To gain access to the Linux Command Line Interface (also known as theCLI), load the system's default terminal emulator program:

- Use the keyboard shortcut "**Ctrl** + **Alt** + **T**",
  OR
- Within the menu, search for the application named: '**terminal**'.

The 'Terminal':

The terminal application consists of a command line interface, and a shell. The command line interface (often referred to as the command prompt) is where you type your commands. While the shell (which you can't see) is the program that interprets and executes those commands.

THE CLI

The command line interface can be identified by the coloured text.

This comprises of:

- The username of the current user logged in = "**towios**" .
- The computer's hostname = "**Ubuntu-ORIGINAL**" .
- The current working directory. (Which is 'home' in this instance) "**~**".
- "**$**" = Which indicates that the terminal is ready to accept commands.

BASIC INTRODUCTORY COMMANDS

whoami
Used to display the username of the currently logged-in user. The command provides the name of the user associated with the current session or terminal.

pwd
Short for "print working directory". Displaying the current working directory, which is the directory you are currently located in within the file system. When you run the pwd command, it provides the full path to the directory where you are currently working. This can be helpful for orienting yourself in the file system and understanding your current location.

ls
Lists the files and directories within a specified directory. It provides a way to view the contents of a directory and obtain information about the files and directories it contains.

The ls command can be used with various options and arguments to customise the listing.

ls [*options*] [*directory*]

- *options* are optional and can modify the behaviour of the ls command, allowing you to control the output format and details displayed.
- *directory* is also optional and specifies the directory you want to list. If not provided, the command lists the contents of the current working directory.

Some common options for the ls command include:

- **-l**: List in long format, providing detailed information about each file and directory, including permissions, owner, group, size, and modification time.
- **-a**: List all files, including hidden files and directories (those whose names begin with a dot).
- **-h**: Print sizes in a human-readable format (e.g., "1K" instead of "1024").
- **-R**: Recursively list the contents of directories and their subdirectories.

cd
Stands for "change directory." When you run the cd command, you specify the directory to which you want to navigate, and your shell will move to that location. For example, cd *directory_name*

- To move up one level in the directory tree (to the parent directory), you can use two periods (..) as follows: **cd ..**
- To return to your home directory, you can use the tilde (~) symbol: **cd ~**
- To quickly switch to your previous directory (often referred to as the "last visited" directory), you can use the following command: **cd -**

touch
A simple utility used to create new, empty files with the specified names or update the access and modification timestamps of existing files. It is a versatile command that can serve several purposes, including creating files and changing file timestamps.

echo "$SHELL"
Used to display the path to the current user's default shell. Let's break down the components of this command:
- **echo**: This is a command that is used to print or display text in the terminal.
- **"$SHELL"**: This is a shell variable. The $SHELL variable stores the path to the user's default shell. When you enclose it in double quotes ("$SHELL"), it ensures that the value of the variable is treated as a single entity and prevents any word-splitting or other interpretation of the value.