## Linux Commands Part Two: Working With Files

We will learn:

* How to make a directory
* Remove a directory
* Make a copy of a file
* Move or rename a file
* Create an empty file

So let’s dig in!!

## 1. mkdir

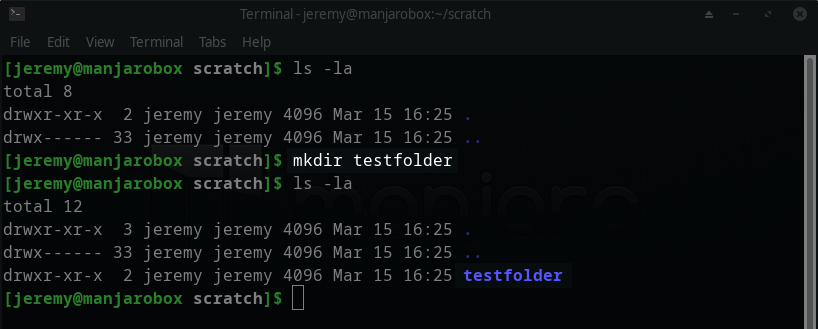
#### *Purpose: to create a directory*

As we covered in the last article, folders in Linux are called “directories”. They serve the same purpose as folders in Windows.

usage:

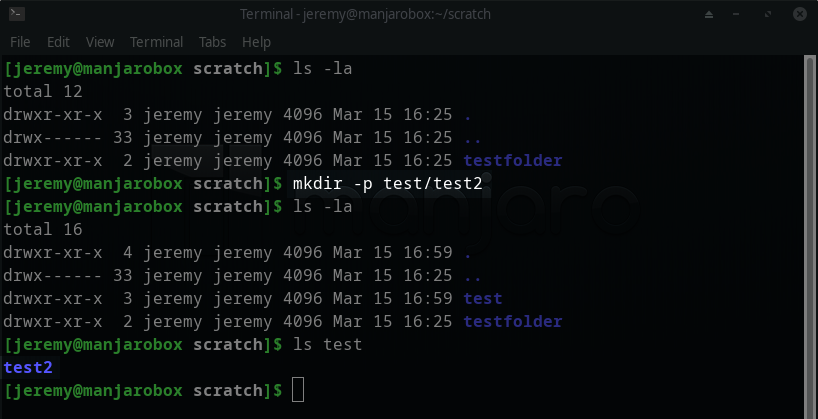
mkdir [directory name]

Here’s mkdir in action:



You can even make a directory within a directory, even if the base one doesn’t exist with the -p option.

Here I will create a new directory called test2 within a test directory, with the -p option:



## 2. rmdir

#### *Purpose: to remove a directory*

With the rmdir command, you can remove a directory quickly and easily.

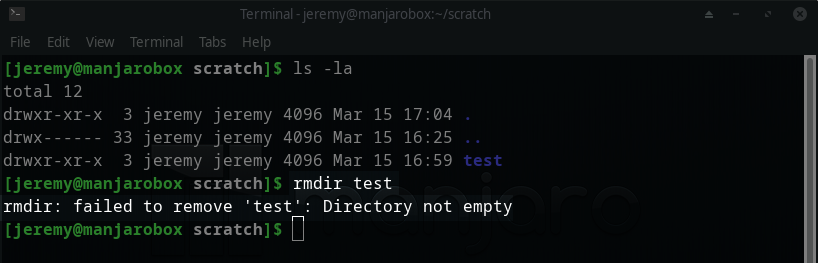
usage:

rmdir [directory name]

Here’s rmdir in action:



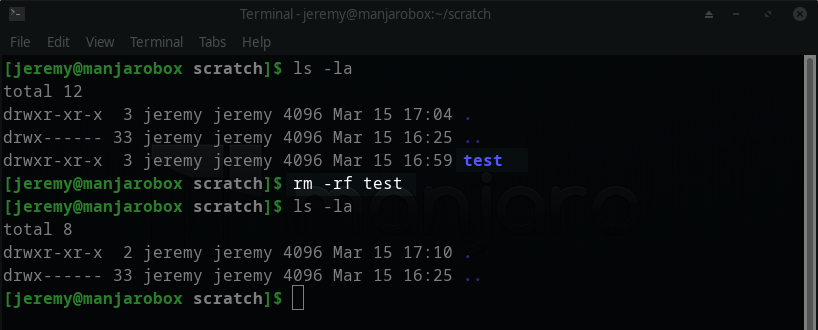
Now this works great if the directory is empty. But what about the directory I created that has another directory in it? Here’s what happens when I try to use rmdir on that directory:



rmdir cannot remove directories that have files or directories in them. To do that, you must use the rm command (which we’ll cover again in command #5 )

Do that we need to type in

rm -rf [directory name]



Note: *this will delete all files and directories within the directory.*

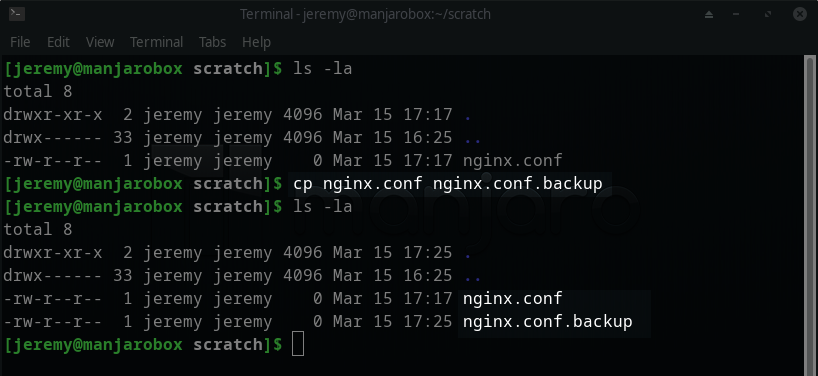
## 3. cp

#### *Purpose: to make a copy of a file*

Here’s one you’ll use all the time, especially if you’re making a config file backup. Let’s use that as an example. I want to make a backup of this file. If I mess something up, I can go back to the old version.

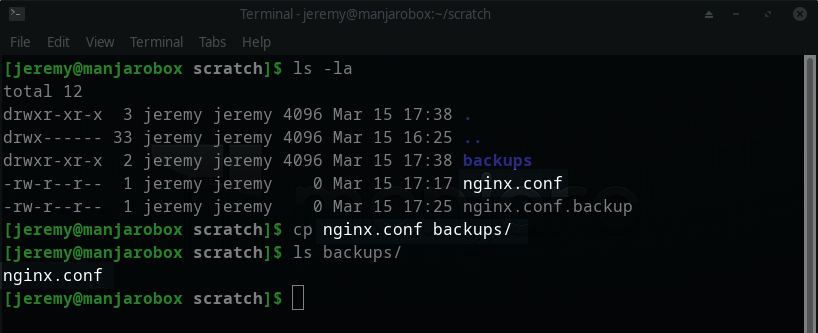
usage:

cp [file name] [new file name]



You can also copy the file to another directory and keep the same file name:

cp [file name] [new location]



This is a great way to make copies of a file. But what if I want to move it?

## 4. mv

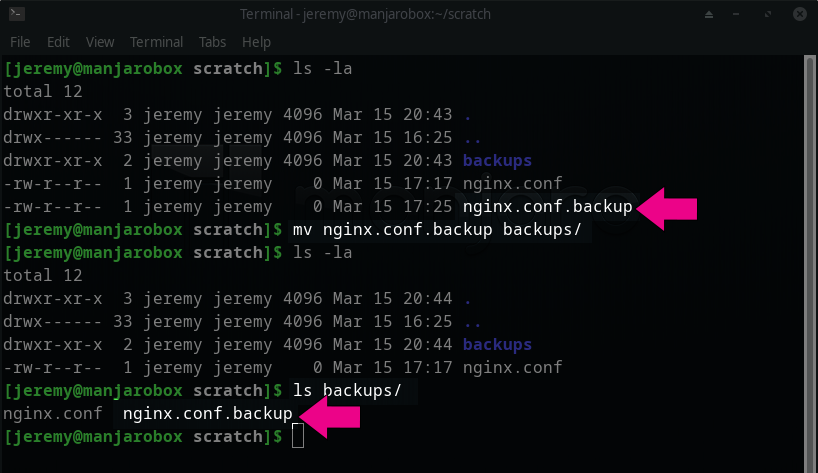
#### *Purpose: to move a file to another location or rename it*

This one is pretty straightforward. You use it to move a file from one place to the other.

usage:

mv [file name] [new location]

It’s used the same way as cp, though it moves the file instead of making a copy.

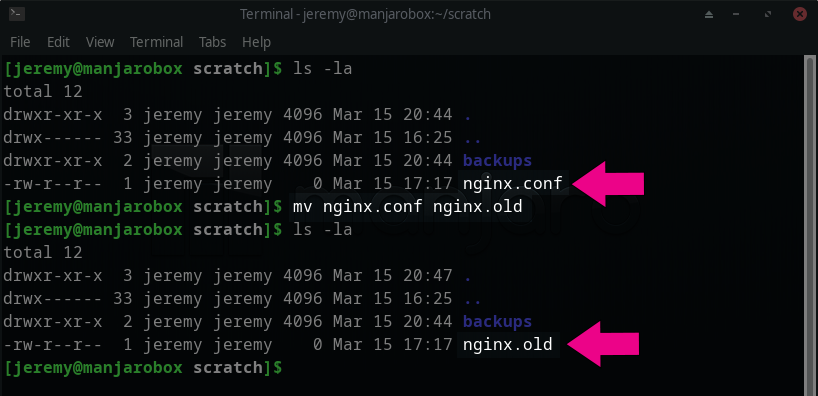


This is also how you ****rename a file****.

usage:

mv [file name] [new file name]

So if I want to rename my nginx configuration file, I can do this:



And it’s done. What if I want to remove it?

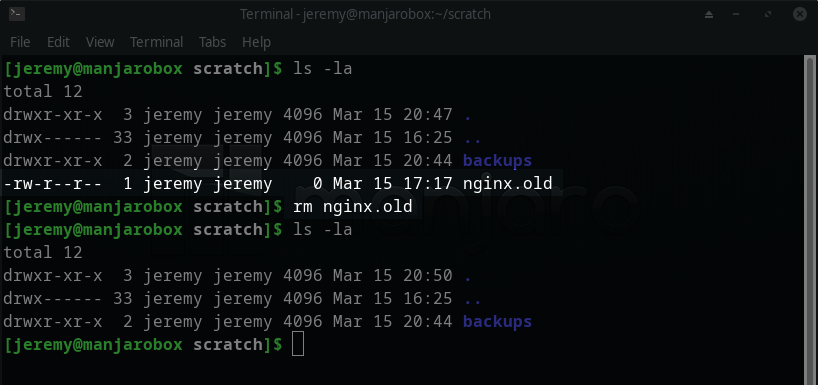
## 5. rm

#### *Purpose: to delete a file*

We used rm earlier to remove a directory. It’s also you delete individual files.

usage:

rm [file name]



You can remove all the files in a directory with the following:

rm -rf \*

It’s a handy command for removing files.

## 6. touch

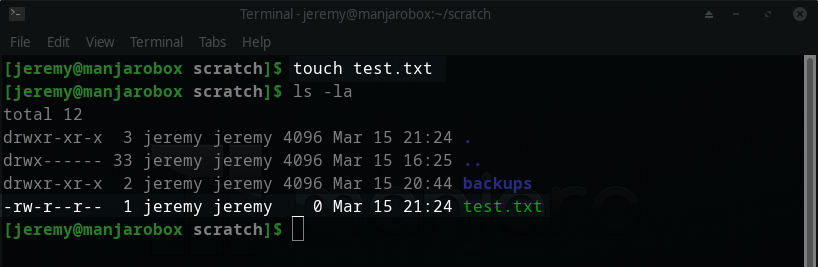
#### *Purpose: create an empty file*

You may have noticed my “nginx.conf” was zero bytes. This is a nifty command for creating empty files. This is handy for creating a new file or testing things.

usage:

touch [file name]

This creates a file with nothing in it:



## 7. find a file (find)

This is a powerful command for finding files in the file system.

usage:

find [path to search] -name filename

Let’s say I want to find my hello world code. I know the filename. I just don’t know where it’s located.

