Environmental metagenomics

Working with the command line



What is Unix?



A family of computer operating systems (OSs)

Linux, MacOS, Solaris, OpenBSD

Key characteristics

Multitasking: multiple software processes can run at the same time

Multiuser: several users can use the same computer at the same time

Multiprocessing: can use more than one computer processor

Portable: can be used in various hardware architectures



The Unix philosophy

"The idea that the power of a system comes more from the relationships among programs than from the programs themselves"

- Use of a large number of simple programs performing a limited, welldefined function
- Use of a command-line interpreter ("shell") to combine these programs to perform complex tasks
- Use of plain text for storing data
- Use of a hierarchical filesystem

The Unix shell (command-line interpreter)

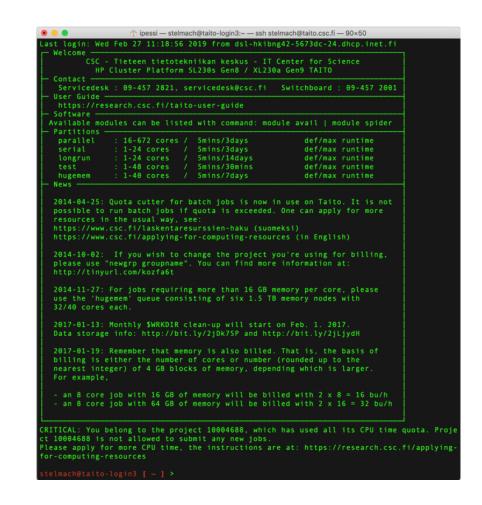
Interprets sequences of text

- Entered by a user
- From a file
- From a data stream

Primary interface before graphical user interfaces (GUIs) appeared

Still widely used today

- Efficient
- Low memory footprint
- Advanced scripting



Some basic Unix commands

```
pwd: print working directory ("where am I?")

Is: list ("show folder contents")

mkdir: make directory (a.k.a. folder)

cd: change directory ("go to folder")
```

cp: **c**o**p**y

mv: move

rm: remove



Some additional notes

Case-sensitive

photo.jpg ≠ PHOTO.jpg

Does not like spaces and special characters in file/folder names

- genome report.txt X
- genome_report.txt
- Tromsø.txt X
- Tromso.txt 🗸



Some additional notes

Running commands

- Space after each "word" in the command
- Typed in a single line, one at a time
- After each command, hit "Enter" to execute it
- Lines starting with "#" are comments

Directory navigation:

- One dot (.) means "here"
- To go up one folder: ../
- To go up two folders: ../../



More advanced usage

Piping (|)

Stream redirection (>)

- Stdout ("output"): >
- Stderr ("error messages"): 2>
- Stdout + stderr: &>

Some tricks

- Tabulator
- History
- Wildcards

Variable assignment

```
> NUMBER_OF_CPUS=40
> echo $NUMBER_OF_CPUS
40
```

For/while loops

```
for FILE in file01 file02 file03; do
    mv $FILE.txt $FILE.old.txt
done

while read FILE; do
    rm $FILE.txt
done < files_to_remove.txt</pre>
```



How to learn UNIX?

By using it!

- Trial and error
- Don't copy and paste it, type it

Ask the internet

- http://stackoverflow.com/
- http://stackexchange.com/
- http://askubuntu.com/
- Google!

Cheat sheets

• https://www.guru99.com/linux-commands-cheat-sheet.html

Manual ("man") pages

• man ls

Online courses/tutorials

http://codecademy.com



Let's practice the command line a bit

https://www.codecademy.com/learn/learn-the-command-line

