

Creating/Moving/Deleting files and folders

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Creating directories and folders

We want to do a lot more at the command line than just move around. We'll also sometimes want to create folders and files. There are two different commands for this, depending on whether you want to make a folder, to put things in, or a file, to put content in.

To create a folder

To create a folder, to put things in, we can use the command `mkdir`, which stands for "make directory". Let's say you were in an empty directory, and wanted to create a folder called `books/`. We could do so like this

```
mkdir books
```

This creates a new, empty, directory called `books/` inside of the folder we're currently in. Some things to keep in mind about folder names:

- We can name a folder anything we want, but remember that the computer will treat names with capital letters differently from lower case letters.
- **You can't use spaces in these file names.**

This second point is important, because if you typed in a command that looked like this:

```
mkdir my music
```

The computer is going to create *two* folders, one called `my/` and one called `music/`. I recommend replacing where you would use spaces with an underscore `_`.

```
mkdir my_music
```

To create a file

To create an empty file (say, a blank text file), we can use the command `touch`. For example, if I wanted to create a file called `todo.txt`, I could do so like this:

```
touch todo.txt
```

This will create an empty file in the current directory. The same caveats from above apply, especially the point about spaces in file names.



Moving and Copying files

Let's say I created directories called `books/` and `movies/`, and created a file inside of `books/` called `lord_of_the_rings.txt`.

```
mkdir books
mkdir movies

touch books/lord_of_the_rings.txt
```

Moving a file

We can move the file `books/lord_of_the_rings.txt` into `movies/` directory with the `mv` command. This command takes two "arguments":

1. The file you want to move.
2. The place you want to move the file to.

You separate these two arguments with a space. So, for our `lord_of_the_rings.txt` move, it would be

```
mv books/lord_of_the_rings.txt movies/
```

This will then move the text file from the `books/` directory into the `movies/` directory.

Copying a file

If, instead of moving the file, you wanted to copy it from one place to another, we would do so with the `cp` command. Its arguments are just like the `mv` command except instead of moving the file, it copies it. Since we just moved `lord_of_the_rings.txt` into `movies/`, we'll make a copy back in `books/`.

```
cp movies/lord_of_the_rings.txt books/
```



Deleting

To delete a file we've created, we can use the `rm` command. But be careful! There is no "undo" command, and it doesn't send the file to a "recycling" or "trash" folder. It just immediately and *irreversibly* deletes the file.

To delete the `lord_of_the_rings.txt` file inside of the `movies/` directory, we can do

```
rm movies/lord_of_the_rings.txt
```