

MRC

Laboratory of
Molecular Biology



Introduction to Unix shell

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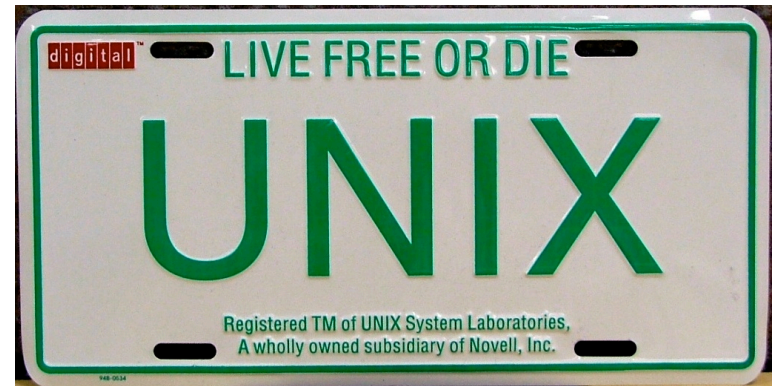
16 Jan 2017

Start here

github.com/alexeymorgunov/unixshellcourse2017

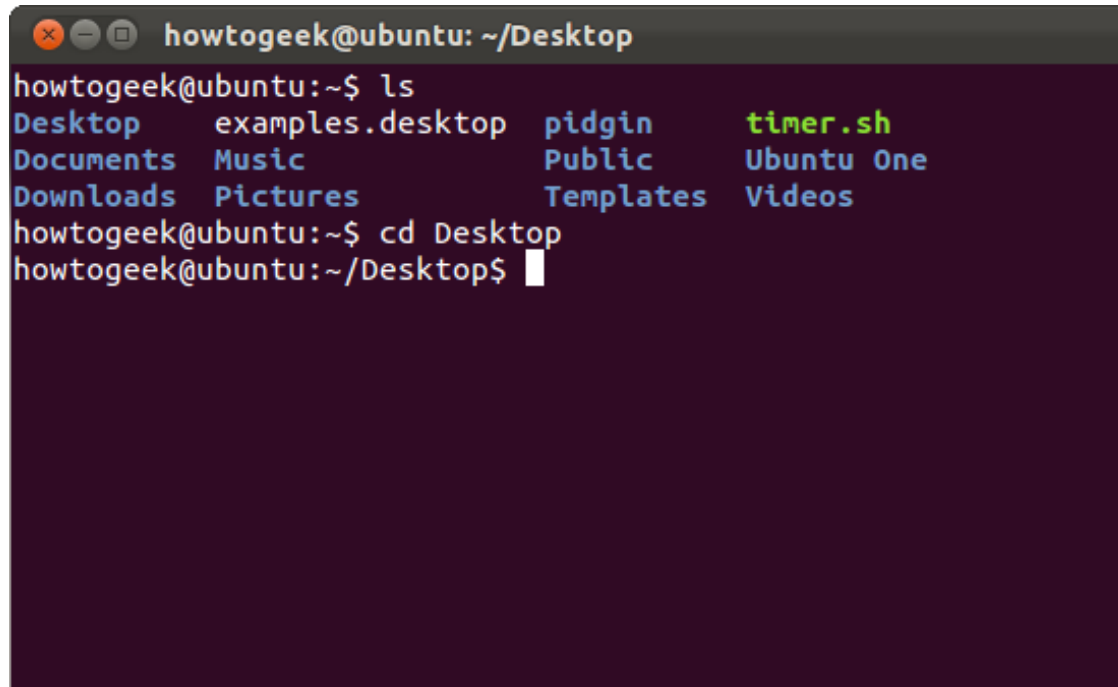
What is Unix?

- Modularly designed operating system
- Simple tools each performing well-defined functions
- Unified file system, means of communication
- Shell scripting and command language to combine simple tools into complex workflows
- Examples: Linux (incl. Android), Mac OS X (incl. iOS)



What is shell?

- Program that accepts commands as text input
- Converts them to operating system functions
- Easy to automate via scripting (c.f. GUI)

A terminal window with a dark purple background and a title bar that reads "howtogeek@ubuntu: ~/Desktop". The terminal shows the following commands and output:

```
howtogeek@ubuntu:~$ ls
Desktop      examples.desktop  pidgin          timer.sh
Documents    Music             Public          Ubuntu One
Downloads    Pictures          Templates       Videos
howtogeek@ubuntu:~$ cd Desktop
howtogeek@ubuntu:~/Desktop$
```

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(true for any language!)

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- Google and Stack Overflow
 - Don't reinvent the wheel – someone somewhere is likely to have encountered the same problem before...

Command syntax

- *doSomething how toFiles*
- *doSomething how sourceFile destinationFile*
- *doSomething how < inputFile > outputFile*
- *doSomething how | doSomething how | doSomething how > outputFile*

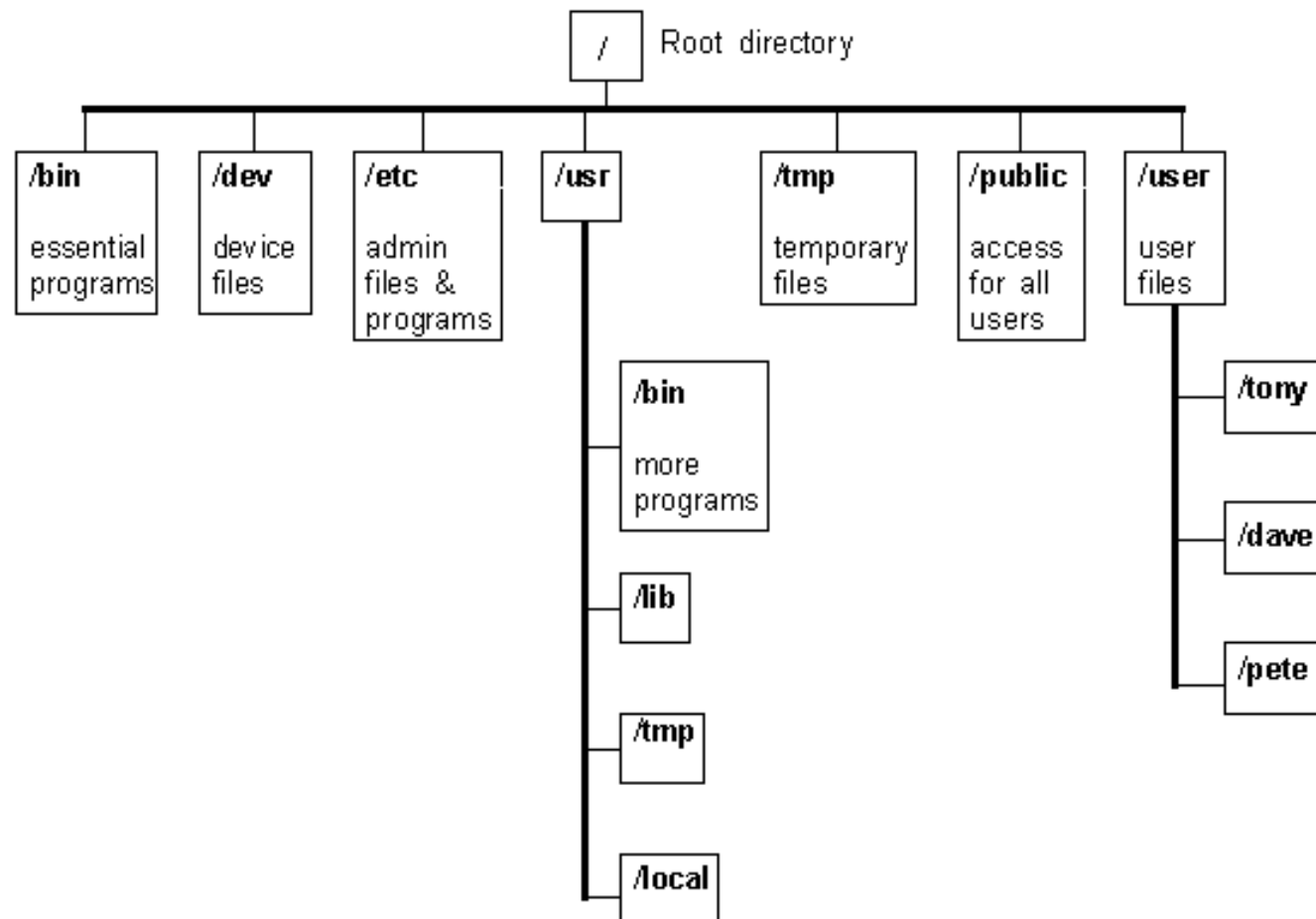
```
[command] -[parameters] [file or folder]
```

Let's start simple

- `pwd`

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- pwd
- File system



Looking and moving around

- `ls`
- `cd`
- `ls -l`
- `man ls`
- `ls -lht`

Create, copy, move, delete...

- `mkdir`
- `echo 'Hello, world!' > hello.txt`
- `cp`
- `mv` -> not just move, used for renaming
- `rm`
- `rmdir`
- `rm -r`
- `find . -name '*.txt' -delete`

Redirection & pipes

- `cat > file.txt` # <CTRL-D>
- `cat file.txt`
- `cat hello.txt >> file.txt`
- `cat hello.txt file.txt > long.txt`

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- `cat > file.txt` # <CTRL-D>
- `cat file.txt`
- `cat hello.txt >> file.txt`
- `cat hello.txt file.txt > long.txt`
- `sort < long.txt > sorted.txt`
- `cat long.txt | sort > sorted2.txt`

echo, variables, \ and brackets

- `echo ls`
- `echo "ls"`
- `echo `ls``

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- `echo ls`
- `echo "ls"`
- `echo `ls``
- `echo $HOME`
- `echo ${HOME}`
- `echo \ $HOME`
- `echo \\ $HOME`
- `echo \\ \\ $HOME`

echo, variables, \ and brackets

- `echo ls`
- `echo "ls"`
- `echo `ls``
- `echo $HOME`
- `echo ${HOME}`
- `echo \ $HOME`
- `echo \\ $HOME`
- `echo \\ \\ $HOME`
- `echo ` $HOME | ls ``
- `echo " $HOME | ls "`
- `echo f{oo,ee,e}d`
- `echo $ ((42+42))`

Looking at text files

- `cat long.txt`
- `less long.txt`
- `gedit long.txt`
- `head -3 long.txt`
- `tail -3 long.txt`
- `tail -n +3 long.txt`
- `wc long.txt`

what options does `wc` have?

Sorting

- `cat > animals.txt` `# <CTRL-D>`
- `cat > numbers.txt` `# <CTRL-D>`
- `sort animals.txt`
- `sort numbers.txt`
- `sort -ur animals.txt`
- `sort -n numbers.txt`
- `uniq -c`

what other options does `sort` have?

grep and sed

- `grep "o" animals.txt`
- `grep -v "o" animals.txt`
- `sed "s/o/O/g" animals.txt`
- `sed -f script.sed animals.txt`

Browse the links in the Notes about sed to see many-many more uses of this function!

Operations on strings

- `rev`
- `cut`
- `join`
- `paste`
- `tr`

Investigate what the above functions can do and then attempt the exercises!

If you have time left...

Check out shell scripting in the “more advanced” section of the notes on GitHub!

github.com/alexeymorgunov/unixshellcourse2017

Thank you!

Have any questions, comments?

Email me: asm63@cam.ac.uk