Zachary Morinville

Creative Coding

August 28th

GUI and CLI

The graphical user interface, like its name suggests, utilizes familiar icons and terminology to allow users to manipulate the files on their devices. These include folders and files–compiled on the desktop–that simply require the click of a button to open and change, creating a more visual-based interface. Due to this fact, GUI is often considered more user-friendly with its easily understandable design. Nowadays, GUI is the most common interface, beating out CLI after its introduction.

Command Line Interface can be well visualized by thinking of what people often picture after hearing the term “hacking,” despite once being the most common interface for software for a few decades. By use of its programs, CLI can allow users to be in complete control of the OS with text-only commands. This means that it is considered a faster and even more streamlined method of accessing files and executing commands. A big downside, however, is the learning curve users often must go through in order to understand how to utilize the tool.

Both GUI and CLI are great ways to explore a desktop. Despite their differences, these interfaces are both useful tools for accessing, organizing, and making changes to files on devices. No matter which one is chosen, users can count on the ability to properly control their device by opening applications, using its built-in resources, and more.