

Unix/vi basics cheatsheet

Listing files in your current directory (aka where you are now)

ls	directory listing
ls -a	listing with hidden files
ls -l	listing in list format
ls -al	listing in list format with hidden files
ls -F	listing with directories labeled
ls <dir>	listing of what is in a specified directory

Changing your current directory (aka moving around in your filesystem)

pwd	show current directory
cd <dir>	change directory to <dir>
cd	change to home
cd ..	change to one directory higher

Shortcuts

<tab>	autocomplete filenames (may not work in Git Bash)
ctrl+C	stop running command
<up arrow>	scroll through previous commands

Viewing files without exiting the command line

less <file>	scroll through the contents of <file>
head <file>	output the first 10 lines of <file>
tail <file>	output the last 10 lines of <file>
<spacebar>	to scroll through "less"
q	to exit "less"

Creating a new file

touch <file>	create or update <file>
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Making a new directory

mkdir <dir>	create a directory <dir>
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Copying, moving, and renaming files and directories

cp <file1> <file2>	copy <file1> to <file2>
cp -r <dir1> <dir2>	copy <dir1> to <dir2>; create <dir2> if it doesn't exist
mv <file1> <file2>	rename or move <file1> to <file2> ; if <file2> is an existing directory, moves <file1> into directory <file2>

Deleting files and directories (permanent)

rm <file>	delete <file>
rm -r <dir>	delete directory <dir>
rm -f <file>	force remove file

Processes

top	display all running processes
q	to exit "top"

Finding out more about a command

man <command>	View the manual for a particular command (on Git Bash, try <command> --help)
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Editing files with vi

vi <filename>	opens a file in vi; creates and opens in vi if file doesn't already exist
i	insert mode; allows editing
<esc>	exits insert mode; allows saving and exiting vi
:q	exit vi if no changes were made to the file
:wq	save changes and exit vi
:q!	exit vi but do not save changes