**UNIX Commands**

Table of Contents

[List of Commands 2](#_Toc65540970)

[Manual Pages 3](#_Toc65540971)

[Searching 4](#_Toc65540972)

[Unix File System 5](#_Toc65540973)

[Hidden Files 7](#_Toc65540974)

## List of Commands

$login: enter username

$password: enter password

$ passwd enter current password, then enter new password twice

$ logout logout

$ exit logout

$ man shows the manual for the page that is specified

E.g. $ man passwd shows how to use the passwd command

## Manual Pages

The manual pages are arranged into 8 sections:

1. User Commands
2. Unix System Calls
3. Library Functions
4. I/O and Special Files
5. File Formats and Miscellaneous
6. Games and Demos
7. Miscellaneous “useful information”
8. System Administrative Commands

$ man 5 passwd gives the man page for the passwd file

Each man page consists of:

NAME

SYNOPSIS

DESCRIPTION

OPTIONS

SEE ALSO

## Searching

$man -k keyword: returns all the man pages of all types with the keyword in it

## Unix File System

The top level of the file system hierarchy is called the root (/) directory.

The root directory has subdirectories which have their own subdirectories and so on.

The top-level subdirectories contain executable programs, administrative files and special library files that keep UNIX organized. Ordinary users cannot modify these directories.

Programs are executable files consisting of sequences of binary digits. Executables are also called binaries, bin for short.

The /bin directory contains executable files.

/usr executables

/etc configuration files

/dev list of devices, used as files

/var more administrative files

/lib library files

/tmp temporary work space for programs

/boot start up files

/home usually the top level of user home directories

/proc images of running programs

$pwd shows current working directory

$ls shows all files and directories inside the current directory

$cd /usr/bin changes working directory to /usr/bin (cd = change directory)

Files are referred to by pathnames, which specifies the location of the file by its position in the hierarchy.

Absolute pathname is the unique name for the file. It starts are the root directory.

Relative pathname is the path name relative to the current directory.

## Hidden Files

Files that have filenames that start with a dot (.) are hidden. They are not displayed by the ls command.

$ls -a displays hidden files

Each directory has two hidden files names . and …

. is shorthand for the directory in which it occurs. It means, the current directory.

.. is shorthand for the parent directory, the directory in which the current directory is contained.

$../man is /usr/share/man/man2 since .. is /usr/share/man

$../../../local is /usr/local since ../.. is /usr/share and .../../.. is /usr