



Cheatsheets / Learn the Command Line

# Navigating the File System

## pwd Print Working Directory

The shell command pwd displays the file path from the root directory to the current working directory.

\$ pwd /Users/sonny/Downloads

## mkdir Make Directory

The shell command mkdir is used to make a new directory in the filesystem according to its argument. If a file path is given, the new directory will be placed at the end. Otherwise, it will create a new directory in the current working directory.

#### ls List

The shell command 1s is used to list the contents of a directory. If no arguments are given, it will list the contents of the current working directory.

## cd Change Directory

The shell command cd is used to move throughout the filesystem of a computer. It accepts a variety of arguments:

- Full file paths.
- Names of children of the current directory.
- .. the parent of the current directory.

```
$ mkdir new-directory
$ 1s
old-directory new-directory
```

```
$ 1s Desktop
resume.pdf
photo.png
```

```
$ cd some-directory
$ cd ...
```

## **Filesystem Structure**

A computer's filesystem organizes the data stored by a computer, so that it can be easily retrieved by the user.

Files are generally represented in a tree-like structure, in which any parent directory can have any number of children. The root directory is then found at the base of the tree.

### touch Create New File

The shell command touch creates a new file in the current working directory with the name provided.

#### The Command Line

The command line allows a user to navigate the filesystem and run built-in programs or custom scripts. In Unix, the command line interface is called Bash, and the shell prompt is the \$ .

## **Helper Commands**

Helper commands for the command line include:

- clear to clear the terminal
- tab to autocomplete the line
- and to cycle through previous commands

\$ touch grocery-list.txt

\$