



#### **Module Code & Module Title**

Level 5 – CT5052, Network Operating Systems

**Assessment Type** 

Logbook 7.

Semester

2023/24 Spring/Autumn

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Assignment Due Date: 21th Dec 2024

Assignment Submission Date: 21th Dec 2024

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## Introduction

UNIX is a powerful, multi-tasking, and multi-user operating system. From the very beginning, UNIX was designed to be simple, efficient, and flexible. Its underlying philosophy is one of modularity—creating small, focused programs that each do one thing well. This approach allows users to combine these small programs to accomplish more complex tasks. The UNIX programming environment encourages programmers to write simple tools and then use them in combination to solve more complicated problems. These tools are often referred to as UNIX utilities and form the backbone of the operating system's power. (Pike, 1984)

UNIX utilities are important because they are efficient and flexible. These help us to manage files and directories, manage system permissions, or do administrative work with high accuracy. Command line utilities are different in the sense that unlike graphical user interfaces (GUIs), Flexible indeed hurts the concept of simplicity, and command line utilities are incredibly flexible and script friendly. Let's use one example — an occasion when you might need more than one step to do something, but one UNIX command can do it for you — it's just one of the things that make such tools a must for every System Administrator and Developer alike!

Here we're focusing on the simplest merging of UNIX commands like: mkdir, cd, ls, rm, and chmod. These are simply building blocks for further command in dealing with file systems and navigating them, and are important. In this, participants will practice creating directory structures, managing files and modifying access permissions to files. Learners who understand the base principles these utilities operate by can have a much greater awareness of the UNIX philosophy of doing one thing well.

The UNIX utility is still relevant in a world of user friendly interfaces, because most handling tasks on scale, platforms for automation, and security in the system. Accessibility is offered through alternates, which can be GUI tools but they're usually not customizable or as efficient. In honor, proficiency in UNIX commands not only make technical skills better but also make it easy to learn about the more complicated parts of operating systems and networks management.

## Objective

The objective of this workshop is to familiarize participants with essential UNIX utilities for effective file and directory management. Participants will practice creating and navigating directory structures using mkdir and cd commands and manage files through creation, copying, moving, and renaming operations. They will learn to modify file and directory permissions with chmod to ensure secure access control. The workshop also covers generating outputs using commands like echo and printf and exploring directories with the Is command. Additionally, participants will experiment with access permissions, practice safe file and directory removal using rm and rmdir, and address restricted access scenarios. By achieving these objectives, participants will gain foundational skills for efficient system administration and file system navigation.

## Required Tools and Concepts

## **Tools:**

- UNIX-based System: This refers to any operating system that supports UNIX-like environments (e.g., Linux, macOS).
- Terminal/Shell: A command-line interface for executing commands. Common types include bash and zsh.

### **Concepts:**

- Directory Structure: UNIX uses a hierarchical structure for organizing files and directories. Directories can contain subdirectories and files, which can be accessed using relative or absolute paths.
- Relative Paths: Paths that are relative to the current directory (e.g., ./ for the current directory, ../ for the parent directory).
- Absolute Paths: Full paths starting from the root directory (e.g., /home/user/).
- File Permissions: Files and directories have permissions defining what users can
  do with them (read, write, execute). Commands like chmod are used to manage
  these permissions.

- UNIX Commands: These essential commands allow users to manage files and directories:
  - a) mkdir: Creates new directories.
  - b) cd: Changes the current directory.
  - c) Is: Lists directory contents.
  - d) cp: Copies files from one location to another.
  - e) mv: Moves or renames files.
  - f) rm/rmdir: Removes files and directories.
  - g) echo/printf: Prints text or formats output.
- Redirection: This concept involves directing the output of commands to files using operators like > (overwrite) or >> (append).

## Steps of Replicate

```
(kali@ kali)-[~]

$ mkdir W7/{W7-1/{1level3,2level3},W7-2/{3level3,4level3}}

mkdir: cannot create directory 'W7/W7-1/1level3': No such file or directory
mkdir: cannot create directory 'W7/W7-1/2level3': No such file or directory
mkdir: cannot create directory 'W7/W7-2/3level3': No such file or directory
mkdir: cannot create directory 'W7/W7-2/4level3': No such file or directory
mkdir: cannot create directory 'W7/W7-2/4level3': No such file or directory
```

Figure 1: Trying to create the directory structure using mkdir without option

```
      (kali⊗ kali)-[~]

      $ mkdir -p W7/{W7-1/{1level3,2level3},W7-2/{3level3,4level3}}

      (kali⊗ kali)-[~]

      $ tree W7

      W7-1

      1evel3

      2level3

      4level3

      7 directories, 0 files

      (kali⊗ kali)-[~]
```

Figure 2: Creating the directory structure using mkdir with -p option

```
      (kali⊕ kali)-[~]

      $ cd W7/W7-1/1level3

      (kali⊕ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
```

Figure 3: Changing to the 1level3 directory by on step using a relative pathname.

## 3.

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ cd ../2level3/

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/2level3]
$ cd ../../W7-2/4level3/

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-2/4level3]
$ cd ../../

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7]

$ [
```

Figure 4: Practicing in changing directories in our directory

```
(kali@kali)-[~/W7]
$ cd W7-1/1level3

(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ cat>file
My name is Ashim Sapkota.

(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ cat file
My name is Ashim Sapkota.

(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ [
```

Figure 5: Changing to 1level3 and Creating a text file by using cat tool

Figure 6: Coping the text file in different directories changing its name

```
      (kali⊕ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]

      $ mv file ../../W7-2/4level3/

      (kali⊕ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]

      $ cd

      (kali⊕ kali)-[~]

      $ tree W7

      W7-1

      Image: block of the control of the con
```

Figure 7: Moving the 1level3 file to 4level3

```
(kali⊗ kali)-[~]
$ echo "Hello! I can do it \n5>(20:8)<(30*2)\nLine 1 \nLine2 \na-b,A-B,-,+,
<,>,#,$,%,δ."
Hello! I can do it
5>(20:8)<(30*2)
Line 1
Line2
a-b,A-B,-,+,<,>,#,$,%,δ.

(kali⊗ kali)-[~]
```

Figure 8: Printing some text in one echo command

```
(kali@ kali)-[~]
$ ls
alscript Ashim combined_Ashim Documents Music Public Videos
ascript Ashim1 Desktop Downloads Pictures Templates W7
```

Figure 9: Checking result using Is command without options

```
-(kali⊕ kali)-[~]
a1script
                  .profile
ascript
Ashim
                  .sudo_as_admin_successful
Ashim1
                  Templates
.bash_logout
                 .vboxclient-clipboard-tty7-control.pid
.bashrc
                  .vboxclient-clipboard-tty7-service.pid
.bashrc.original .vboxclient-display-svga-x11-tty7-control.pid
                  .vboxclient-display-svga-x11-tty7-service.pid
                  .vboxclient-draganddrop-tty7-control.pid
combined_Ashim
                  .vboxclient-draganddrop-tty7-service.pid
                  .vboxclient-hostversion-tty7-control.pid
.dmrc
                  .vboxclient-seamless-tty7-control.pid
                  .vboxclient-seamless-tty7-service.pid
                  .vboxclient-vmsvga-session-tty7-control.pid
.face
                  Videos
                  .Xauthority
.gnupg
.ICEauthority
                  .xsession-errors
                  .zsh_history
.mozilla
                  .zshrc
```

Figure 10: Checking result using Is command with -a options

```
___(kali⊕ kali)-[~]

$ ls -d
•
```

Figure 11: Checking result using Is command with -d options

```
-(kali⊕kali)-[~]
 -$ ls -g
total 64
-rw-rw-r-- 1 kali 5598 Dec 13 12:46 a1script
-rw-rw-r-- 1 kali 8192 Dec 19 06:24 ascript
-rw-rw-r-- 1 kali 24 Dec 13 12:43 Ashim
-rw-rw-r-- 1 kali
                    62 Dec 20 02:52 Ashim1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 kali
                   88 Dec 13 12:45 combined Ashim
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali 4096 Dec 13 12:33 Desktop
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali 4096 Dec 13 12:33 Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali 4096 Dec 13 12:33 Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali 4096 Dec 13 12:33 Music
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali 4096 Dec 20 12:33 Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali 4096 Dec 13 12:33 Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali 4096 Dec 13 12:33 Templates
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali 4096 Dec 13 12:33 Videos
drwxrwxr-x 4 kali 4096 Dec 20 23:11 W7
```

Figure 12: Checking result using Is command with -g options

```
      (kali@ kali)-[~]

      $ ls -i
      1704038 a1script
      1704074 combined_Ashim
      1703990 Music
      1703992 Videos

      1704079 ascript
      1703985 Desktop
      1703991 Pictures
      1704040 W7

      1704077 Ashim
      1703989 Documents
      1703988 Public

      1704213 Ashim1
      1703986 Downloads
      1703987 Templates
```

Figure 13: Checking result using Is command with -i options

Figure 14: Checking result using Is command with -r options

#### 1. Home Directory (~):

- a) Is: Lists non-hidden contents (e.g., W7, other files or directories).
- b) Is -a: Shows all contents, including hidden ones (e.g., .bashrc, .profile, W7).
- c) Is -d: Displays just the ~ directory name.
- d) Is -g: Lists non-hidden contents with detailed information (omitting owner).
- e) Is -I: Similar to -g but includes owner information.
- f) Is -R: Recursively lists all contents of ~.

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/W7]
$ ls
W7-1 W7-2

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7]
$ ls -a
. .. W7-1 W7-2

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7]
$ ls -d
.

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7]
$ ls -g
total 8
drwxrwxr-x 4 kali 4096 Dec 20 23:11 W7-1
drwxrwxr-x 4 kali 4096 Dec 20 23:11 W7-2

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7]
$ ls -i
1704405 W7-1 1704723 W7-2

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7]
$ ls -r
W7-2 W7-1

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7]
$ ls -r
```

Figure 15: Checking result using Is command without options and with a,d,g,l,r options in W7 directory

#### 2. W7 Directory:

- a) Is: Lists W7-1 and W7-2.
- b) Is -a: Shows W7-1, W7-2, and hidden entries (., ..).
- c) Is -d: Displays just W7.
- d) Is -g: Lists W7-1 and W7-2 with detailed information (omitting owner).
- e) Is -I: Same as -g, but includes owner details.
- f) Is -R: Recursively lists W7-1, W7-2, and their contents.

Figure 16: Checking result using Is command without options and with a,d,g,I,r options in W7-1 directory

#### 3. W7-1 Directory:

- a) Is: Lists 1level3 and 2level3.
- b) Is -a: Shows 1level3, 2level3, and hidden entries (., ..).
- c) Is -d: Displays just W7-1.
- d) Is -g: Lists 1level3 and 2level3 with detailed information.
- e) Is -I: Same as -g, but includes owner details.
- f) Is -R: Recursively lists 1level3 and 2level3.

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ ls
file1

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ ls -a
. . . file1

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ ls -d
.

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ ls -g
total 4
-rw-rw-r-- 1 kali 26 Dec 20 23:25 file1

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ ls -i
1704272 file1

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ ls -r
file1

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1/1level3]
$ ls -r
```

Figure 17: Checking result using Is command without options and with a,d,g,I,r options in 1level3 directory

#### 4. 1level3 Directory:

- a) Is: No output (empty directory).
- b) Is -a: Shows . and .. (hidden entries).
- c) Is -d: Displays just 1level3.
- d) Is -g: No output (empty directory).
- e) Is -I: No output (empty directory).
- f) Is -R: No output (empty directory).

Figure 18: Changing to W7 directory and removing directory files W7-2,3level3,4level3 and all ordinary files in them and checking is it remove or not

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ cd W7/W7-1

(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]
$ ls -l 1level3/file1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 kali kali 26 Dec 21 00:40 1level3/file1

(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]
$ [
```

Figure 19: Displaying access permissions for file1 in 1level3

Figure 20: Removing all access permissions for this file

```
      (kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

      $ ls -l 1level3/file1

      — 1 kali kali 26 Dec 21 00:40 1level3/file1

      (kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

      $ _____
```

Figure 21: Displaying access permissions for this file

Figure 22: Trying to read this file using any utility(eg.cat)

Figure 23: Trying to write into this file using any utility (e.g., cat with the sign >> – append).

```
      (kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

      $ chmod u+rw 1level3/file1

      (kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

      $ [
```

Figure 24: Adding read and write access permissions for our self for this file.

Figure 25: Displaying access permissions for this file

Figure 26: Trying to read this file using any utility

```
(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

$ cat>>1level3/file1
I am from Syangja.

(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

$ [
```

Figure 27: Trying to write into this file using cat utility.

```
(kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]
$ ls -l 1level3
total 4
-rw-rw-r-- 1 kali kali 65 Dec 21 06:00 file

(kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]
$ ■
```

Figure 28: Displaying access permissions for 1level3

Figure 29: Removing all access permissions for the 1level3 directory

Figure 30: Displaying access permissions for 1level3

Figure 31: Trying to read a file from 1level3 using cat utility

```
(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

$ cat>>1level3/file1
zsh: permission denied: 1level3/file1

(kali@kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

$ [
```

Figure 32:Trying to put a file into 1level3 using cat utility.

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

$ ls 1level3
ls: cannot open directory 'llevel3': Permission denied

(kali@ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

$ [
```

Figure 33: Trying to search in 1level3 using Is command

Figure 34: Adding read, write, and execute access permissions for our self for the 1level3 directory.

```
      (kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

      $ ls -l

      total 8

      drwx—— 2 kali kali 4096 Dec 21 05:59 1level3

      drwxrwxr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec 21 05:59 2level3

      (kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]
```

Figure 35: Displaying access permissions for 1level3

Figure 36:Trying to read a file from 1level3 using cat utility.

Figure 37: Trying to put a file into 1level3 using cat utility

```
(kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]
$ ls 1level3/
file

(kali⊗ kali)-[~/W7/W7-1]

$ ■
```

Figure 38: Trying to search in 1level3 using Is command

## Conclusion

In this workshop, we got some valuable hands on experience with the use of the essential UNIX utilities to manage files and directories with a UNIX based system. First we practiced with basic commands like mkdir to make directories, cd to change directories, and Is to see what's in the directories. Those basic commands let us traversal the directory structure, with relative and absolute paths, to learn how to access to files and directives in various places. We also played around with files copying (with cp), moving or renaming (with mv) and removing (with rm) files and directories. What we took away from this practical experience was a deeper understanding of the process of how files get managed with a UNIX environment. The other important thing that we had to work on was managing file permission using the chmod command. We learned to control access rights by changing file permissions, i.e. we decided, who can read, who can write or who can execute files. We also tried this out by trying to read from and write to files that we had different levels of permission to with the goal of understanding the importance of managing permissions in a multi user system.

Additionally, the workshop introduced the concept of output redirection using the echo and printf commands. We used these commands to print text and store it in files, practicing how to redirect output and append data to files. This technique is particularly useful for creating configuration files or logging system activities. These exercises not only taught us how the syntax of these commands work, meaning what they do, but also what these commands are used for in the real world. These are the skills you pick up in this workshop that are fundamental to anybody who uses, say UNIX like systems, because systems administrators, developers and people involved in how you manage files and how you manage your files on your system. In a nutshell, we were able to make proper use of tools and all appropriately introduced concepts so we are ready for more advanced utilities in UNIX system administration and other areas as well.

# References

Pike, B. W. (1984). Introduction to UNIX and its Philosophy. In R. P. Brian W. Kernighan, *The Unix Programming Environment* (p. 368). Prentice Hall.