Basic Commands Chart

Command	Sample Usage	Description
ssh	ssh username@ssh.cs.dixie.edu ssh username@scratch.cs.dixie.edu	allow remote connection to other computers
scp	scp myfile.txt username@scratch.cs.dixie.edu:. scp username@scratch.cs.dixie.edu:myfile.txt ./	secure copy to or from a remote machine
wget	wget http://www.google.com/somefile.pdf	copy a file from the internet
tar	tar –cvf new.tar file_or_directory_to_tar tar -xvf myfiles.tar	Create tar file called new.ta Extract the tar file, myfiles.tar, in the current directory
date	date	shows the current date and time of the computer
cal	cal	shows a calendar and highlights the current date
exit	exit	logs you out and closes the terminal
pwd	pwd	prints the working directory or prints absolute path of the current directory
ls	ls ls newdirectory/ ls -a ls -l ls -t ls -R ls -a -l or ls -al	lists the contents of the current directory lists the contents of a specified directory lists all the contents in a directory including the hidden ones lists the contents of a directory in long format lists the contents of a directory in date/time order lists the contents of a directory and all of the subdirectories - same as tree lists all the contents in a directory in long format
tree	tree	display the contents of a directory and all of the subdirectories - same as ls -R
cd	cd or cd ~ or cd - cd newdirectory/ or cd /var cd ..	change directories to your user home directory or $HOME change directories to the specified directory go back a directory
echo	echo "Linux is Fun!"	print to the screen. quotations are optional, but helpful
less	less myfile.txt	display the contents of a file with the ability to navigate up and down
more	more myfile.txt	display the contents of a file with the ability to only navigate down
cat	cat myfile.txt	display the contents of a file without the ability to navigate
head	head myfile.txt head -20 myfile.txt	display the first 10 lines of a file starting at the top display the specified number of lines of a file starting at the top
tail	tail myfile.txt tail -20 myfile.txt	display the last 10 lines of a file starting at the bottom display the specified number of lines of a file starting at the bottom
touch	touch newfile.txt	create an empty file
cp	cp myfile.txt myfile2.txt cp -r mydirectory copydirectory	copy a file copy a directory
mv	mv myfile.txt rabbits.txt	move or rename a file
rm	rm myfile.txt rm -r newdirectory/	remove a file remove a directory and all files inside
mkdir	mkdir mydirectory	make a new directory
rmdir	rmdir mydirectory	remove an empty directory
ln	ln -s mydirectory/myfile name-of-symlink ln file1 file2	create a symbolic link, like a shortcut to a file or directory creates a hard link. File1 and file2 point to the same data.
alias	alias foo="cat myfile.txt | less"	create an alias for a command, like a nickname or shortcut
sort	sort myfile.txt	sort the output into alpha-numeric order based on the first word of the line
uniq	sort myfile.txt | uniq	remove duplicate lines that are adjacent to each other. best when used with the sort command
wc	wc myfile.txt wc -l myfile.txt wc -w myfile.txt ls | wc -l	display the line count, word count and byte count information of a file display the line count of a file display the word count of a file display the line count of the output of the ls command
Wildcard Characters * ? [ ]	ls foo.* ls file?.txt ls file[1-3].txt	list files ending with any extension. Any number of characters 0-infinity. Example foo.txt.backup list files with exactly one character between file and the extension list files with a 1, 2, or 3 between file and the extension. Example file3.txt