Introduction to
Linux Shell

COMP201 - Lab1
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KOÇ
UNIVERSITY

What is shell?

- The Linux shell is the interface between you and operating system that controls the hardware.
- The most commonly used shell is called BASH – Bourne Again Shell
- username@hostname:curr_dir$
  - username: farzin
  - hostname: COMP201
  - curr_dir: /home

How to connect?

```
$ ssh USERNAME@linuxpool.ku.edu.tr
```

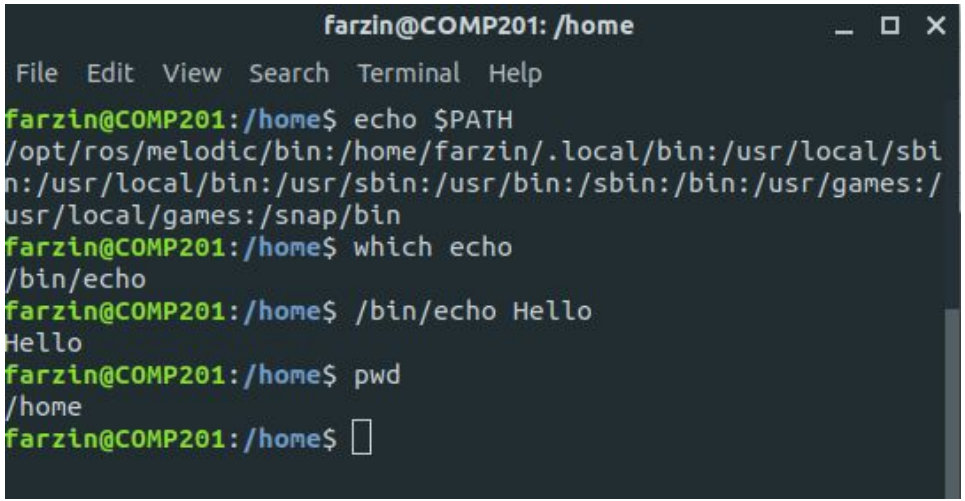
(don’t type in the “$”! This means type into terminal)

1. Type your password when prompted.
2. If you see a warning about SSH host keys, click or enter “yes.”

Executing system programs

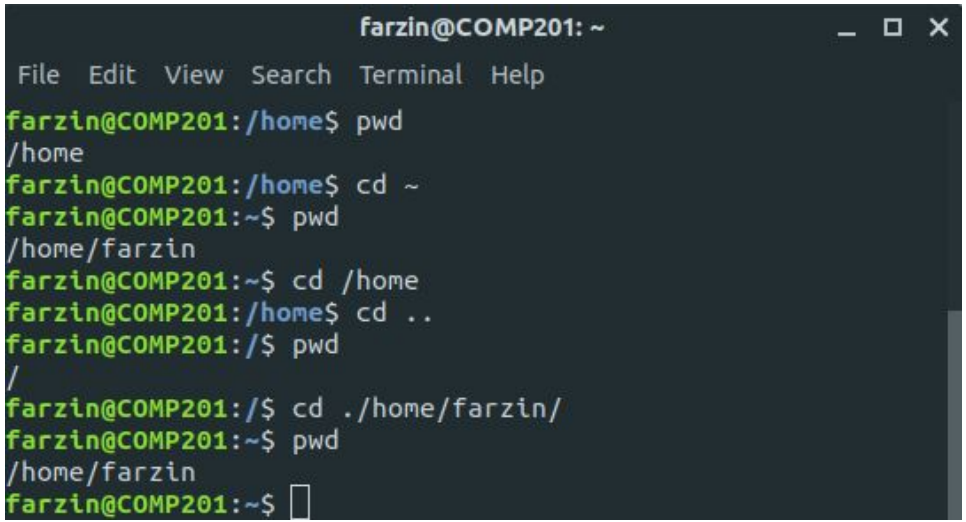
- Execute programs
- $date
  - This program prints current date and time
- $echo
  - This program prints the input argument

Path and $PATH



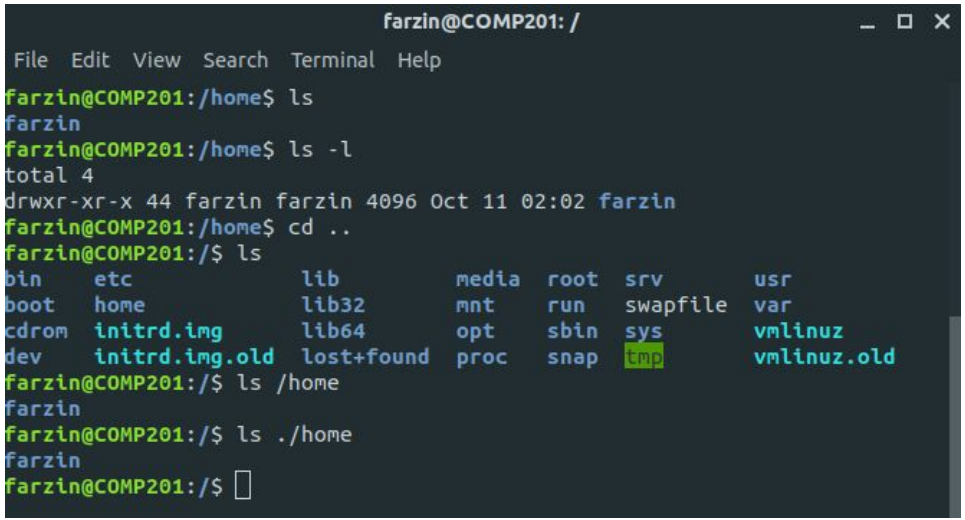
- $PATH
  - A variable that contains addresses where system look for programs to execute
- $which
  - Prints which file is being executed given an input program name
- $pwd
  - This program prints current working directory
  - Stands for “print working directory”

Path



- $cd
  - Changes the working directory
  - .. is the parent directory
  - . is the current directory
  - Tilda (~) is the /home/usr directory
- Absolute vs Relative path
  - Relative: ./home/farzin
  - Absolute: /home/farzin

Listing files and directories



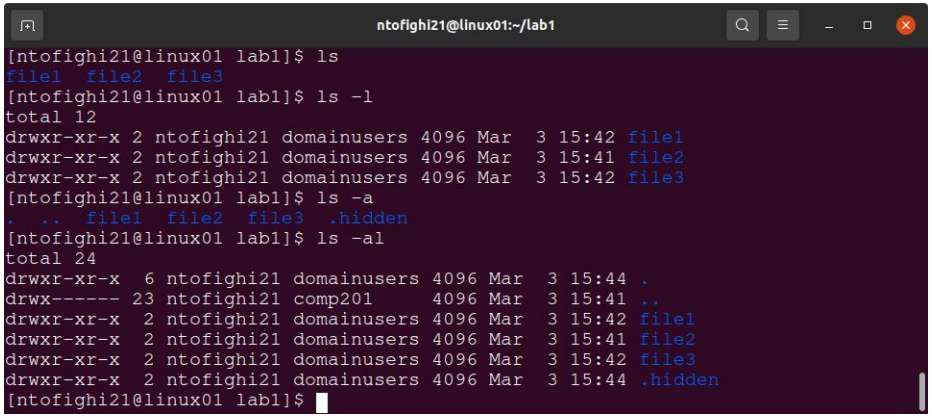
- $ ls
  - Prints files and directories under current working directory

Options with Commands in Linux

- Many Linux commands have options that can be used to modify their behavior.
- Options are usually preceded by one or two dashes, followed by a letter or a word.
- Options can be used to:
  - Control the output of a command
  - Specify a file or directory to work with
  - Modify the command's behavior in other ways

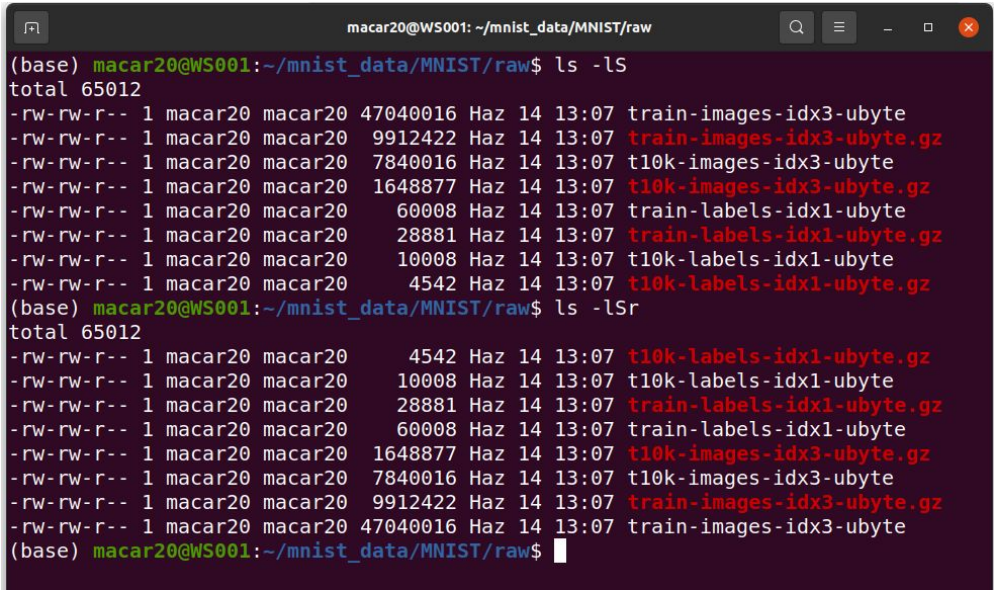
Options with Commands in Linux

- Let's look at an example: **ls command**.
- By default, it lists the contents of the current directory.
- But we can use options to modify its behavior.
- For example,
  - -l option to display the contents of the directory in a long format, which includes additional information such as file permissions, owner, and size.
  - -a option to display all files, including hidden files (which are usually not displayed by default).
- To use both options together, we can type ls -la



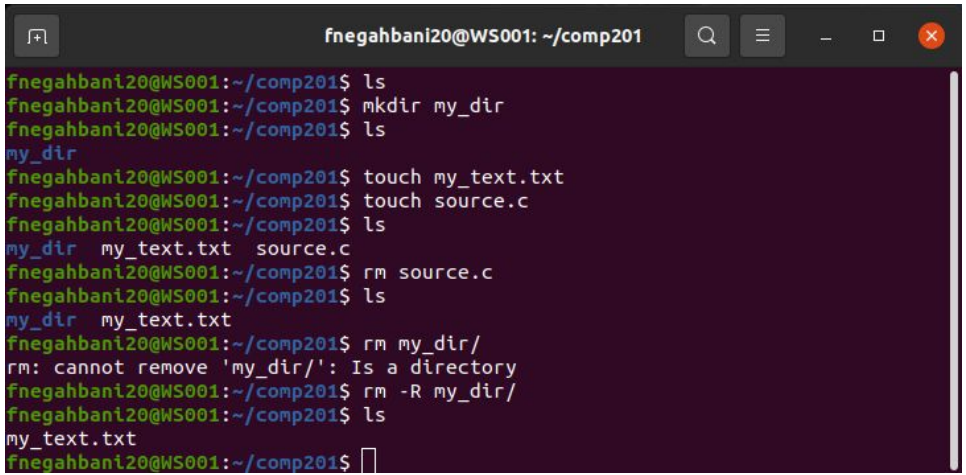
To learn more about the options available for a particular command →**man command**
Provides detailed information on how to use the command and its options → man ls

Listing files and directories



- You can use “-S” option to display files sorted by their sizes, and “-r” option for reverse sorting.

Making directories, files, and removing them



- $ mkdir <folder_name>
  - Makes a new directory in the given working directory with the given “folder_name”.
- $ touch
  - Creates a file with desired extension and name
- $ rm
  - Removes a file or folder.
  - For removing folders you need to use -R option

Chmod

- Chmod (short for "change mode") is a command in Linux that allows users to change the read, write, and execute permissions of files and directories.

- The syntax for chmod is as follows:
  - `chmod [options] MODE FILENAME`

- The mode is a combination of the letters "r" (read), "w" (write), and "x" (execute),
- Permissions can be granted to three different user groups:
  - The file owner
  - The group owner
  - All users

File Permission in Linux

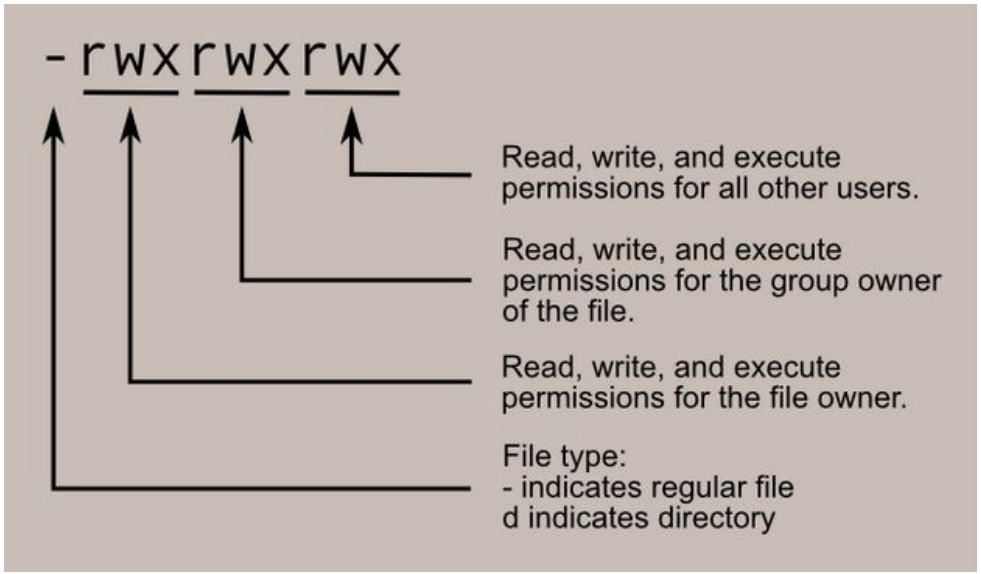


Image source: http://linuxcommand.org/lc3_lts0090.php

File Permission in Linux

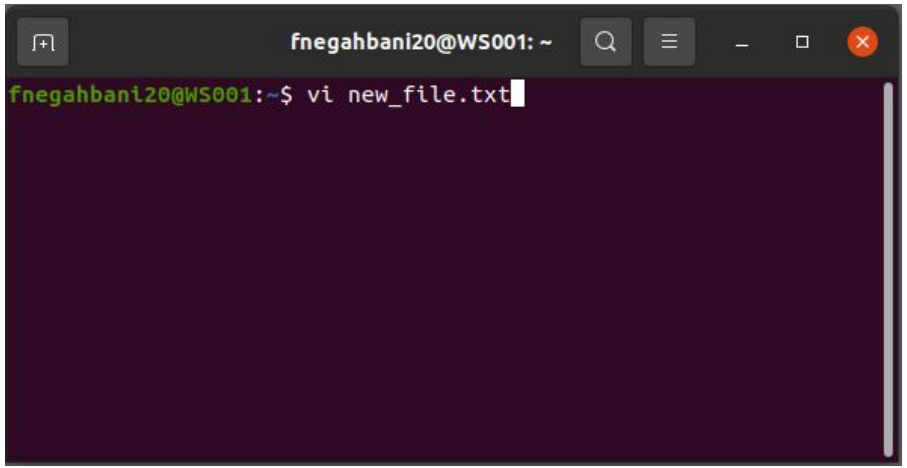
```
rwx rwx rwx = 111 111 111
rw- rw- rw- = 110 110 110
rwx --- --- = 111 000 000

and so on...

rwx = 111 in binary = 7
rw- = 110 in binary = 6
r-x = 101 in binary = 5
r-- = 100 in binary = 4
```

Image source: http://linuxcommand.org/lc3_lts0090.php

Initially, test.sh cannot be executed, to grant -rwx rwx r-x permission to test.sh file:

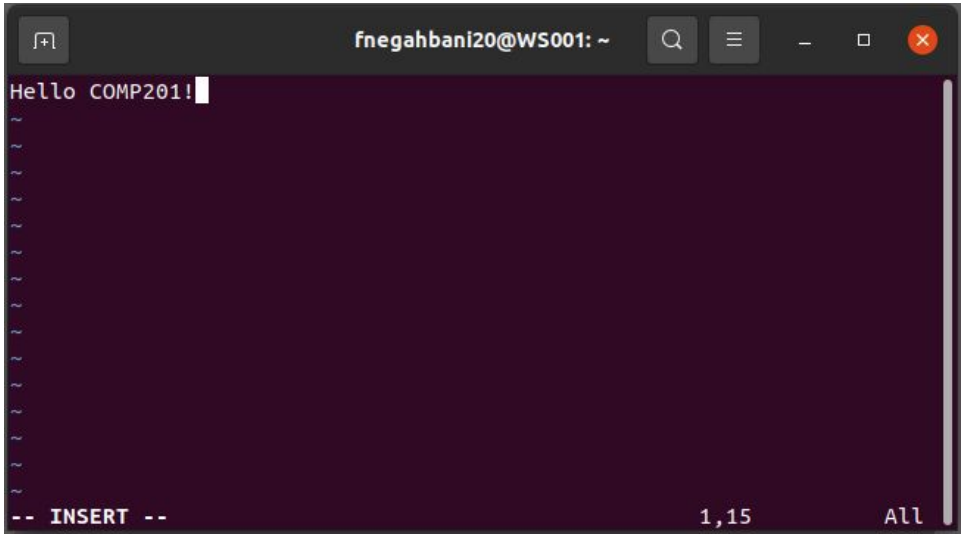
```
fnegahbani20@WS001:~$ chmod 775 test.sh
```

What is Vi?



- Vi is the default text editor in the UNIX operating system.
- Using vi, we can create a new file, read, and edit an existing file.
- To open vi, type “vi” or “vi filename”. If the file “filename” doesn’t exist, it will be created when you save it.

Operation Modes in vi or vim

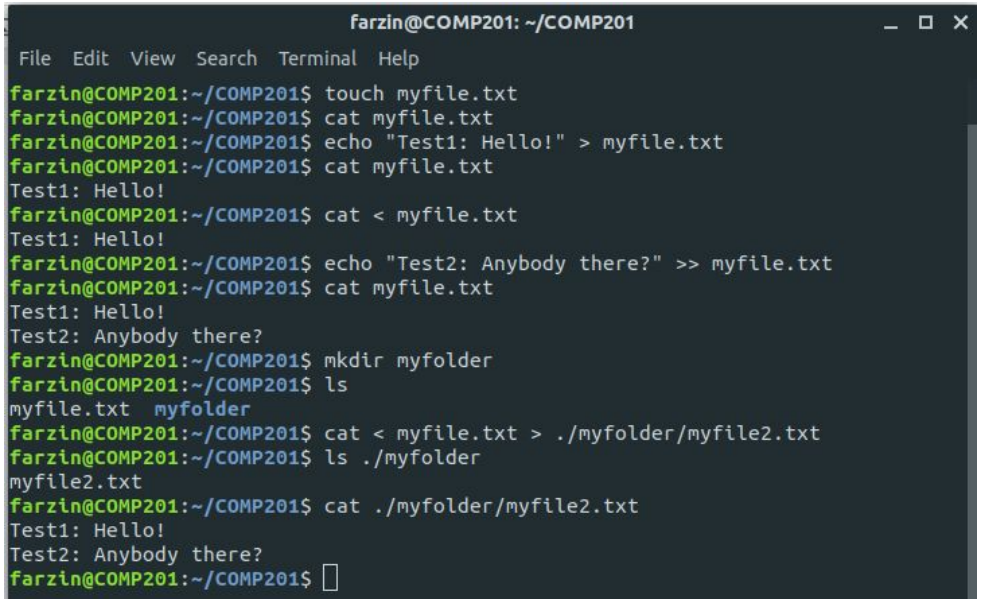


- Normal mode
  - The default mode in vi.
  - In some source, like https://www.cs.colostate.edu/helpdocs/vi.html, it is also called command mode.
  - Every character you type is interpreted as a command.
- Insert mode
  - The one on the left picture.
  - To switch from normal mode to insert mode, type ‘i’ in the normal mode.
  - Every character you type is put to the file.
  - To switch back to normal mode, press <Esc>

Operation Modes in vi or vim

- Visual mode
  - To switch from normal mode to visual mode, type ‘v’.
  - You can select blocks of text.
  - Type d to delete the block, c to delete the block and switch to insert mode to replace the deleted block with another string.
  - To switch back to normal mode, type <Esc>.
- Exit without saving
  - To exit from a file without saving it, go to the Normal mode (command mode) by pressing <Esc> then type :q!

Redirection



- $cat
  - Print the content of the given file
- “< file” and “> file”
  - You can wire the input and output of a program to a file
  - “>> file” appends to end of file

Piping

- Pipe character “ | “
  - Connects output of a program to input of another one
- $grep
  - Searches for a particular information
  - By default it is case sensitive
- Try “grep --help” and find what does -i option do

SCP

- SCP (Secure Copy) is a command-line tool in Linux used to securely transfer files between hosts over a network.
- The syntax for SCP is as follows:
  - `scp [options] SOURCE DESTINATION`
- -r: Copy directories.

SCP

Do not forget the colon

- From local machine to LinuxPool:
  - (on local machine): $ scp -r FILENAME USERNAME@linuxpool.ku.edu.tr:
- From LinuxPool to local machine:
  - (on local machine): $ scp -r USERNAME@linuxpool.ku.edu.tr:PATH/TO/FILE ./

Useful commands:

- clear: Clearing the contents of the terminal screen
- ctrl+r: Searching for previously executed commands
- Tab: auto-completion
- * (asterisk): Used as a wildcard to represent any combination of characters in a command or filename

Other Resources

- MIT MS The Shell
- Stanford CS107 Unix videos 1-15, 24, 25
- UNIX Tutorial for Beginners