

List of Command Line Commands

Glossary of commonly used commands

The Command Line is a text interface for your computer.

It's a program that takes in commands, which it passes on to the computer's operating system to run.

You can navigate through files and folders on your computer just as you would with Mac OS Finder or Window Explorer on on Windows.

ls - List item in the current directory

ls -l - List item in the current directory and show in long format to see permissions, size & date.

ls -a - List all item in the current directory including hidden files

ls dir - List all items in directory dir

cd dir - Change current directory to dir

cd .. - Go up one directory

cd / - Go to your root directory

cd - Go to your home directory

cd - - Go to the last directory you were just in

pwd - Show present working directory path

mkdir dir - Create a directory dir

rm file - Remove file

rm -r dir - Remove directory dir recursively

cp file1 file2 - Copy file1 to file2

cp -r dir1 dir2 - Copy directory dir1 to dir2 recursively

mv file1 file2 - Move (rename) file1 to file2

touch file - Create or update file

cat file - Output the content of the file

alias name= 'command' - Create an alias for a command

tar cf file.tar files - Create a tar named file.tar containing files

tar xf file.tar - Extract the files from file.tar

tar czf file.tar.gz files - Create a tar with Gzip compression

tar xzf file.tar.gz - Extract a tar using Gzip

gzip file - Compresses file and renames it to file.gz

gzip -d file.gz - Decompresses file.gz back to file

ls -l - List items in current directory and show permissions

chmod 600 file - You can read & write - good for files

chmod 700 file - You can read, write, & execute - good for scripts

chmod 644 file - You can read & write, and everyone else can only read - good for web pages

chmod 755 file - You can read & write, and execute, and everyone else can read and execute - good for programs that you want to share

grep pattern files - Search for pattern in files

find file - Find all instances of file in real system

ps - Display your currently active processes

kill -9 pid - Force kill process id pid