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CLI VS. GUI

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The command line interface (CLI) and the graphical user interface (GUI) are two widely different approaches to achieve many of the same results. The CLI is the original way and often the most efficient way to get around a computer. The GUI is the new kid on the block when it comes to using a computing device. While the GUI is usually more beginner friendly and comfortable for users it often has limitations. Even though I realize the potential behind good CLI use I still often prefer to stay in the GUI environment.

Command line interfaces have been around since the origins of personal computing, it was the only way to interact with a PC before the invention of the GUI. To make use of the CLI a user must input text commands into an interpreter that will relay those commands to the CPU. The CLI allows users to access areas of their computers that may be off limits in a graphical environment. A programmer may forget to add something to the GUI or it may be too complex to add, often one find that they need to access the CLI to achieve their task. While the CLI seems daunting at first it is fun once learned.

The Graphical user interface was invented in the 70’s and has revolutionized the way modern computing is done. Applying a GUI has allowed users of all skill sets to access a wide range of applications and devices. If the GUI is programmed right, it makes everyday tasks such as checking your email or receiving a text a breeze. The GUI has even changed the way humans look at the world. With a click of a button a user can now easily launch a YouTube video or play the newest video game.

While the GUI is friendlier to use and more visually appealing, I personally very much enjoy and respect the CLI. I have become fond of using the CLI over the last few years, it has increased my understanding of computers tenfold. Knowing my way around a CLI made switching into a Linux environment less of a headache. I do still prefer to use the GUI for most everyday tasks though, only using the CLI is a little too hardcore for me.