

Basic Shell Commands

CS 3336

pwd

Report the path for the present working directory (current directory).

ls

List files in the current direction. Usage: `ls` or `ls path`

- **-l** Long listing, with information about size, permissions, ownership, etc.
- **-a** List all files, including those that start with a dot (which would normally be hidden).
- **-R** Recursively list all files in subdirectories.
- **-F** Put a character at the end of filename to indicate its type.

cd

Change current directory. Usage: `cd path`

mkdir

Make a directory. Usage: `mkdir path`

rm

Remove files and directories. Usage: `rm path`

- **-r** Recursively remove files and directories.
- **-i** Interactive mode, prompt before removing files.
- **--** Interpret all subsequent parameters as file names rather than options. Useful for deleting a file named something like “-r”.

cp

Copy one or more files. Usage: `cp old_file new_file` or `cp file1 file2 ... directory`

- **-r** Recursively copy directories.

mv

Move files to new filenames or new directories. Usage: `mv old_name new_name` or `cp file directory`

- **-i** Interactive mode, prompt before overwriting anything.

cat

Read one or more files and write them out one after another to standard output (often used as a quick way to look at the contents of a small file). Usage: `cat file` or `cat file1 file2 file3`

who

Report who is logged in.

exit

Tell your shell to exit (logging you out of a telnet or secure shell connection).

finger

Give information about a user. Usage: `finger username`

date

Report what time the system thinks it is.