Important Unix Commands

Eike Ritter

Linux file system structure:

`/usr`	programs and libraries for all users (fixed)
`/var`	run-time data
`/home`	data and programs for each user
`/bin, /sbin`	Important system binaries
`/dev`	device entries
`/tmp`	temporary files, writable and readable by everyone
`/proc, /sys`	pseudo-files for communicating with the kernel
`/boot`	files required for booting the operating system

There is a command interpreter in the terminal called the shell. When you execute a command, all files are relative to a particular directory For every user there is one directory under `/home` (called the home directory) where all data and programs for each user are stored.

Important shortcuts:

.	is current directory
..	is parent directory
~	is home directory

Important commands:

- `cd <directory>` change current directory to `<directory>`
- `ls <directory>` list all files in directory `<directory>`
- `ls -a <directory>` list all files in directory `<directory>` including hidden ones (file where names start with .)
- `ls -l <file or directory>` list attributes of file or directory as well
- `cat <file1> ...< filen>` lists the content of file `<file1>` until `<filen>`
- if you want to execute a file in current directory, you need to prefix it with ./
- you can redirect the output of a command to a file via >
  example: `ls -l . > dirContent.txt`