

How to open a terminal

Time-stamp: <2015-09-11 11:38 christophe@pallier.org>

- **MacOSX** Open Finder/Applications/Utilities/Terminal (see <http://www.wikihow.com/Get-to-the-Command-Line-on-a-Mac>)
- **Windows** Win+X and select 'Command-Prompt' (see <http://pcsupport.about.com/od/commandlinereference/f/open-command-prompt.htm>)
- **Ubuntu-Linux** Ctrl-Alt-T (see <https://help.ubuntu.com/community/UsingTheTerminal>)

Here is how a terminal looks like in Linux:

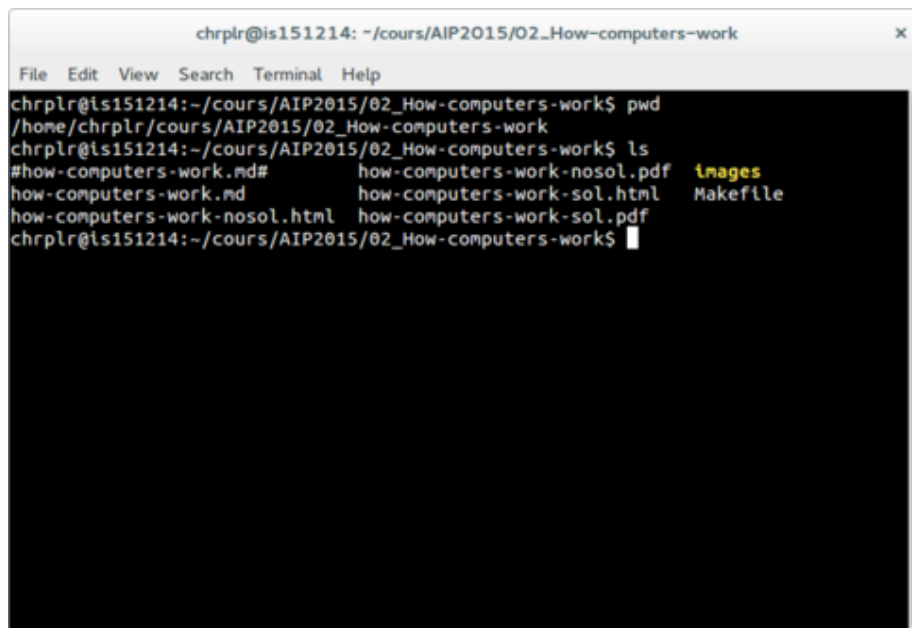
A screenshot of a Linux terminal window. The title bar reads 'chrplr@is151214: ~/cours/AIP2015/02_How-computers-work'. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Search', 'Terminal', and 'Help'. The terminal content shows the user 'chrplr' at host 'is151214' in the directory '~/cours/AIP2015/02_How-computers-work'. The user has entered 'pwd' and 'ls'. The output of 'ls' shows a directory listing with files like 'how-computers-work.md', 'how-computers-work-nosol.html', 'how-computers-work-nosol.pdf', 'how-computers-work-sol.html', 'how-computers-work-sol.pdf', 'images', and 'Makefile'. The prompt is currently at 'chrplr@is151214:~/cours/AIP2015/02_How-computers-work\$' with a cursor.

Figure 1: Picture of a ‘virtual’ terminal in Linux

In the terminal, you are interacting with a program called a *shell*. This program waits for you to type commands with the keyboard. In this lecture, you will just need to know very few commands:

- **Linux/MacOSX** `pwd`, `cd`, `python`, `ipython`
- **Windows cmd** `echo %cd%`, `cd`, `python`, `ipython`

To learn more, see the lectures ‘how computers work’ and ‘how to use a computer interactively’.