

# How to open a terminal

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- **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:

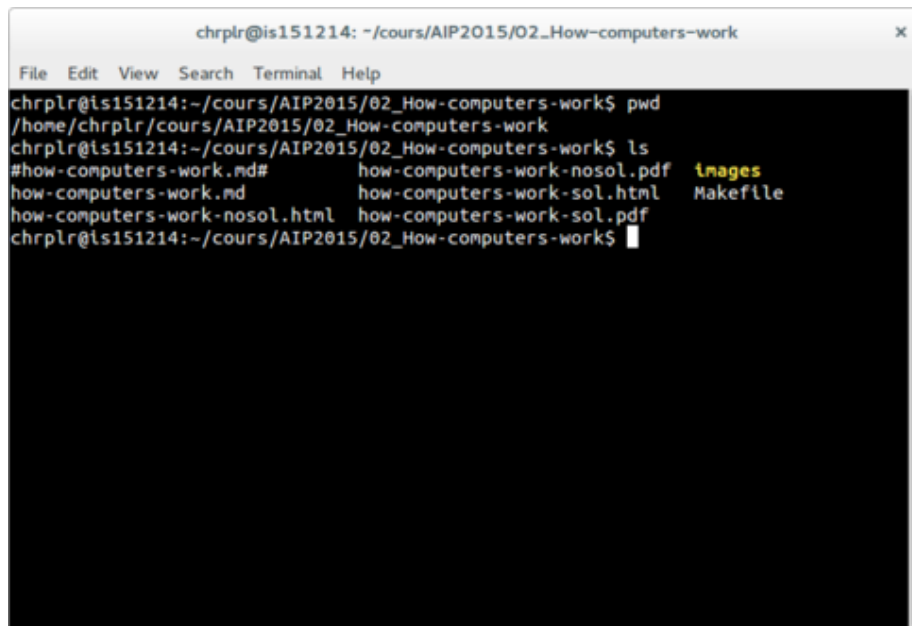


Figure 1: Picture of a 'virtual' terminal in Linux

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’.