# Directories and files

# Concepts

- ❖ Files are organised in a directory tree/hierarchy
- Everything is a file (e.g. keyboard, printers, ...)
- \* Each process has access to the files stdin (input), stdout (buffered output), stderr (unbuffered output)
- Each process operates in a working directory
- Each user has a home directory

#### **Paths**

Path = Identifier for the location of file/directory

- Paths consists of a parent directory list + file/directory
- ❖ Files and directories are separated by a '/
- Directory paths may contain a trailing '/'

Absolute path = Full location (first character = '/')

Relative path = Relative location (first character  $\neq$  '/')

Path to the directory itself Path to the parent directory

/usr/bin/ls Example for an absolute file path Example for an absolute directory path /home/foo/

Example for a relative file path ./a.out

# File system hierarchy

Root directory /

/bin Essential command executables

/dev Device files

/etc System-wide configuration files

Manually added software /opt

/sbin Essential administrative executables

Temporary files /tmp

System resources for users /usr Command executables /usr/bin

/usr/local Site-local data

/usr/sbin Administrative executables

/var Variable files

man hier (or man file-hierarchy on recent Linux Expansions distributions) to get a more detailed overview

# Terminal (emulator)

Text terminal = Computer interface for text entry/display Terminal emulator = Application that emulates a text terminal in a graphical environment

Examples for terminal emulators: xterm, urxvt, quake

# Opening a terminal

Unity/GNOME Ctrl + Alt +  $C_{\mathsf{md}} + \longrightarrow \mathsf{"terminal"} \to [\ \downarrow\ ]$ Mac OS  $\mathbb{W}_{\mathsf{in}} + \mathbb{R} \to \mathsf{"bash"} \to \mathbb{A}$ Bash on Windows

# Shell

Unix shell = User interface that accepts commands to operate a computer

man intro to get an introduction into basic shell usage

Examples for shell programs: sh, bash, zsh, fish, ksh

# **Prompt**

Prompt = Text sequence that precedes each line that prompts the user to enter a command

[foo@bar /var/www]\$ Example prompt in bash ⇒ User foo is operating in the working directory /var/www at the computer with the host name bar

# Line editing

Ctrl + A / E	Go to beginning/end of the line
Ctrl + U / K	Erase to beginning/end of the line
Alt + B / F	Go one word forward/backward in line
Ctrl + W	Erase to beginning of current word
Ctrl + C	Cancel the current command line

#### Metacharacters

The following characters have special meaning and sometimes they can't be used directly as arguments/words:

Their special meaning can be disabled:

Preserves the literal value of the following character

' Preserves the literal values of enquoted characters

Like ' ' but characters ` \$ \ retain their meaning

~	Home directory of the current user
*	Matches any character sequence
?	Matches a single character
[]	Matches a character enclosed by the braces
\${ <i>var</i> }	Value of the environment variable <i>var</i>
\$( <i>cmd</i> )	Output of <i>cmd</i>
\$(( <i>expr</i> ))	Result of the mathematical expression expr

#### Shell utilities

<b>apropos</b> text	Searches the manual pages for <i>text</i>
<b>cat</b> file	Prints the contents of <i>file</i>
<b>cd</b> dir	Changes the working directory to dir
<pre>chmod prm file</pre>	Changes permissions of <i>file</i> to <i>prm</i>
<b>cp</b> src dst	Copies the file/directory <i>src</i> to <i>dst</i>
echo text	Prints text
<b>file</b> file	Determines the file type of <i>file</i>
<b>find</b> dir expr	Finds files in $dir$ that match $expr$
<pre>grep expr file</pre>	Searches for pattern <i>expr</i> in <i>file</i>
<b>ls</b> dir	List the entries in the directory dir
<b>man</b> cmd	Displays the manual for <i>cmd</i>
<b>mkdir</b> dir	Creates the directory dir
mv src dst	Moves/renames src to dst
pwd	Prints the current working directory
rm file	Removes the file <i>file</i>
sort	Sorts lines of text from input
touch file	Creates the empty file file

# Input output redirection

cmd1   cmd2	Runs cmd1 and cmd2 and redirects the
<pre>cmd &gt; file</pre>	output of <i>cmd1</i> to the input of <i>cmd2</i> Runs <i>cmd</i> and redirects output to <i>file</i> ,
<pre>cmd &gt;&gt; file cmd &lt; file cmd &lt;&lt;&lt; text</pre>	content of <i>file</i> is overwritten Like >> but appends output to <i>file</i> Runs <i>cmd</i> and redirects <i>file</i> to its input Runs <i>cmd</i> with input <i>text</i>

# Job control

Ctrl + D

Job = Shell command and its associated process(es)

- ❖ Each job has a job id and corresponding process ids
- ❖ Jobs can run in the foreground or in the background
- ❖ The execution of a job can be temporarily suspended

, , , ,
Starts <i>cmd</i> as background job (id is printed)
Puts the job $job$ in foreground
Continues suspended job <i>job</i> in background
Prints job numbers of jobs in current terminal
Terminates a process with the process id <i>pid</i>
Prints PIDs of processes in current terminal
Suspends/resumes active job
Puts active job to background and suspends it
Aborts the active job (most of the times)

Ends an EOF character