

UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Subject

Operating System

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Operating Systems – COC 3071L

SE 5th A - Fall 2025

Lab 2: Linux Basics and Introduction

Part 1: Linux Environment Orientation

1.1 Understanding the Linux Environment

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- Concepts to Cover:
 - What is Linux? Brief history and distributions
 - Linux vs Windows: Key differences
 - Understanding the shell (bash)
 - WSL2 as a Linux environment
- Hands-on Activity:

```
# Students open WSL2 terminal and explore
whoami  # Check current user
pwd  # Print working directory
uname -a  # System information
date  # Current date and time
```

1.2 Getting Help in Linux

Commands to demonstrate:

```
man Is # Manual pages

Is --help # Built-in help

which Is # Location of commands

type Is # Command type information
```

```
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21: ~ × +
    LS(1)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   User Commands
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               LS(1)
    NAME
                                                                  ls - list directory contents
      SYNOPSIS
ls [OPTION]... [FILE]...
  DESCRIPTION

List information about the FILEs (the current directory by default). Sort entries alphabetically if none of -cftuvSUX nor --sort is specified.
                                                                  Mandatory arguments to long options are % \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) +\left( 1\right) +\left(
                                                                  -a, --all
                                                                                                                                   do not ignore entries starting with .
                                                                  -A, --almost-all
                                                                                                                               do not list implied . and ..
                                                                --author with -l, print the author of each file
                                                                  -b, --escape print C-style escapes for nongraphic characters
                                                                  --block-size=SIZE
with -l, scale sizes by SIZE when printing them;
e.g., '--block-size=M'; see SIZE format below
Manual page ls(1) line 1/268 10% (press h for help or q to quit)
```

```
| Solution | Solution
```

Part 2: File System Navigation

2.1 Understanding Linux Directory Structure

- Concepts to Cover:
 - Root directory (/)
 - Important directories: /home, /usr, /etc, /var, /tmp
 - Absolute vs relative paths
 - Hidden files and directories
- Demonstration:

```
# Root directory contents

Is -la # Long listing with hidden files

cd /home # Change directory

cd ~ # Home directory shortcut

cd - # Previous directory
```

2.2 Basic Navigation Commands (15 minutes)

Commands to practice:

```
# Present working directory
pwd
             # List directory contents
             # Long format
ls -
ls -la
             # Include hidden files
Is -lh
             # Human readable sizes
cd
             # Change directory
             # Parent directory
cd __
cd ~
             # Home directory
cd /
       # Root directory
```

```
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:/ × + v - - • ×

fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-* ls -lh

total 12K

drwxr-xr-x 3 fatima fatima 4.0K Sep 25 13:37 OS_labs

drwxr-xr-x 2 fatima fatima 4.0K Sep 25 13:35 fatimakhan223

-rw-r--r-- 1 fatima fatima 0 Sep 26 14:30 file.txt

fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-* cd OS_labs

fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-*/OS_labs* cd --

fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-* cd /

fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-* cd /

fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-* cd /

fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-* cd /

fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:/$ |
```

Part 3: File and Directory Operations

**3.1 Creating and Managing Files/Directories

Commands to demonstrate:

```
mkdir mylab2  # Create directory
mkdir -p test/sub/dir # Create nested directories
touch file1.txt  # Create empty file
touch file2.txt file3.txt # Multiple files

# Text editors introduction
nano hello.txt  # Simple text editor
# OR
echo "Hello Linux!" > hello.txt # Redirect output to file
```

• File viewing commands:

```
cat hello-txt  # Display file contents
less hello-txt  # Page through file
head hello-txt  # First 10 lines

tail hello-txt  # Last 10 lines
wc hello-txt  # Word count
```

```
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:/$ mkdir mylab2
mkdir: cannot create directory 'mylab2': Permission denied
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:/$ mkdir mylab2
mkdir: cannot create directory 'mylab2': Permission denied
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:/$ cd /
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:/$ cd /
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-$ mkdir mylab2
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-$ mkdir mylab2
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-$ mkdir -p test/sub/dir
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-$ mkdir -p test/sub/dir
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-* cd mylab2
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-/mylab2$ cd test
-bash: cd: test: No such file or directory
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-/mylab2$ cd test
-bash: cd: test: No such file or directory
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-/mylab2$ cd *
fati
```

```
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-\sigma nano "hello.txt"
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-\sigma echo "Hello Linux!" > hello.txt
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-\sigma echo "Hello Linux!" > hello.txt
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-\sigma hello.txt
Hello Linux!
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-\sigma head hello.txt
Hello Linux!
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-\sigma head hello.txt
Hello Linux!
fatima@DESKTOP-3BA3T21:-\sigma head hello.txt
```

3.2 Copying, Moving, and Deleting

Commands to practice:

```
cp hello-txt backup-txt  # Copy file
cp -r mylab2 mylab2_backup  # Copy directory recursively
mv backup-txt renamed-txt  # Move/rename file
rm renamed-txt  # Remove file
rm -r mylab2_backup  # Remove directory
rmdir empty_directory  # Remove empty directory
```

Hands-on Exercise: Students create a directory structure, add files, and practice file operations.

Part 4: File Permissions and Ownership

4.1 Understanding File Permissions

- Concepts to Cover:
 - Permission types: read (r), write (w), execute (x)
 - Permission groups: user (u), group (g), others (o)
 - Numeric notation: 755, 644, etc.
- Commands to demonstrate:

```
# View permissions

chmod 755 file.txt  # Change permissions (numeric)

chmod u+x file.txt  # Add execute permission for user

chmod g-w file.txt  # Remove write permission for group

chown user:group file.txt # Change ownership (if applicable)
```

Part 5: Text Processing and Utilities

5.1 Essential Text Commands

Commands to demonstrate:

```
grep "pattern" file.txt  # Search for patterns
grep -i "pattern" file.txt  # Case-insensitive search
grep -n "pattern" file.txt  # Show line numbers
```

5.2 Pipes and Redirection

Concepts and commands:

```
Is -| grep ".txt"  # Pipe output
cat file1.txt file2.txt > combined.txt # Redirect output
echo "new line" >> file.txt # Append to file
sort file.txt | uniq  # Chain commands
```

Part 6: Introduction to Processes

6.1 Understanding Processes

- Concepts to Cover:
 - What is a process?
 - Process ID (PID)
 - Parent-child relationships
 - Process states
- Commands to demonstrate:

```
# Show current processes
ps
                      # Detailed process list
ps aux
                      # Full format listing
ps -ef
                      # Process tree
pstree
top
                      # Real-time process viewer
                      # Enhanced process viewer (if available)
htop
                      # Terminate process by PID
kill PID
killall process_name # Kill processes by name
                      # Kill processes matching pattern
pkill pattern
```