Foothill College
CS 30A Introduction to Linux & Unix
Fall 2015

Differences between UNIX and DOS

To make your life easier there are a few important differences between UNIX and DOS that are helpful to know as you become acclimated to the UNIX operating system environment and operation.

UNIX vs DOS:

- The end of file character is control-D in UNIX, not control-Z as in DOS.
- UNIX is case sensitive. For example, dir and DIR are not the same in UNIX. DOS will recognize both dir and DIR. (By the way, the convention in UNIX is to use lower case letters for commands.).
- In UNIX, use the forward slash (/), not the back slash (\) as in DOS, when referencing directories.
- The command cd (with no arguments) in UNIX takes you to your home directory without printing out the present working directory as in DOS. In UNIX the command pwd is required to print out the present working directory.
- Command options in UNIX generally use the hyphen -, not the forward slash as in DOS.