General Assembly

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE COMMAND LINE

Key Terms and Definitions

» **GUI (Graphical User Interface):** Any system that allows you to interact with information by clicking, dragging, or otherwise arranging and selecting objects, usually with a combination of the mouse and keyboard. They're (ideally) visually appealing and intuitive to understand.

» **CLI (Command Line Interface):** A text-based interface used to interact with computers and give them commands.

- **Useful CLI Commands**:
- List Directory Contents: `ls` (Windows equivalent: `dir`)
- Print Working Directory: `pwd`
- Change Directory: `cd`
- Make Directory: `mkdir`
- Copy File: `cp`
- Remove File: `rm` (Windows equivalent: `del`)

» **Shell:** A type of command line program that allows you to interact with the command line in a graphically based operating system.

» **Absolute Path:** The file path all the way from the root or home directory to the designated folder or file.

» **Relative Path:** The file path from current directory to the designated folder or file.

Guiding Questions

1. What are the benefits of using the CLI instead of a GUI?
2. Why do you need to be careful when using the CLI?
3. How is a shell different than the CLI?

Additional Resources

» [General Assembly's Original Command Line Review](#)

- A walkthrough created for web development students that provides additional high-level practice.

» [Learn Enough to Be Dangerous!](#)

- One of the more thorough tutorial blogs on the subject.