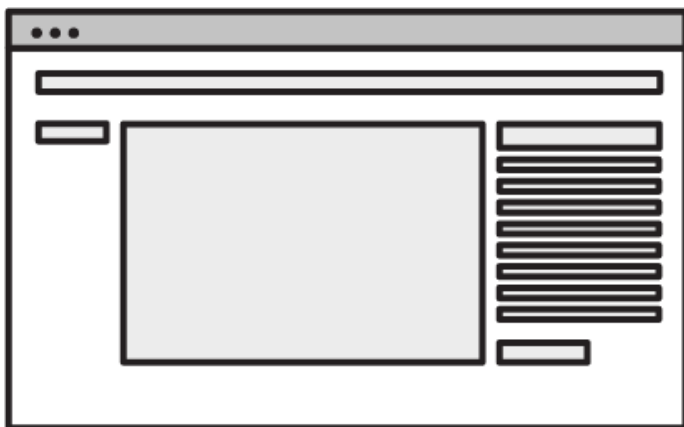KG

← Pre-Course Work

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How We Interact With Computers (Cont.)

In their early days (pre-1980s), computers didn't generally have GUIs. Instead, users interacted with computers via text commands in what we call a "command line interface" (CLI). The command line still exists today, although you may not have used it much as a casual computer user.

The CLI is a popular tool for power users, programmers, data scientists, and anyone who values efficiency in their computer workflow. The ability to write scripts, interact with objects, and create executable files from the CLI lets you reach a level of productivity that no GUI is efficient enough to handle.

GUI   CLI

Important note: This lesson is intended for UNIX-like operating systems like Mac OS X. However, many of the interactions covered are similar across operating systems. For these exercises, Windows PC users should use "Git Bash," which you can download and install along with Git from the official Git website. Git Bash emulates a UNIX command line in Windows so that you won't have to "translate" to the Windows variants of these commands!

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