KG

← Pre-Course Work

Command Flags

Now we've learned that you can move and copy files, create folders, and even permanently delete things. Let's take things a step further.

Earlier, we discussed **multiple arguments**, where a command requires additional information before it can execute properly. To speed up our workflow on the CLI, we can use additional arguments, called **flags**, to modify our commands further.

Flags are typed after a command, like this `ls [flag]`, and take the form of a hyphen and letter. Some common flags include `-r`, `-f`, `-v`, `-a`, and `-l`.

Flags can be used to accomplish multiple types of tasks, depending on what command they are modifying.

For example, let's say we wanted to list the contents of our `general_assembly` folder; we do so using the `ls` command. But what if we wanted to list items in reverse order? We would add a flag!

```
ls -r general_assembly
```

To list all of the contents of our `general_assembly` directory, *even hidden files*, we might type:

```
ls -a general_assembly
```

To see a list of all possible flags and their definitions, you can look at a command's "manual page" (aka, man page). For the `ls` command, we would do this with the following:

```
man ls
```

Once you are in the "man page," use the arrow keys to navigate. When you're ready, hit `q` to quit and go back to your terminal.

Pro tip: Flags can even be combined! However, proceed with caution when doing so; always experiment on blank files first.

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