

GUI VS. CLI

Graphic User Interface (GUI) and Command Line Interface (CLI), what are they? Well to start off, they are both ways of finding and adjusting files on a computer. When you open your computer and see all the icons that represent files, that's GUI. CLI is not the first thing you see, but an app you have to click into. Most computer systems already have some sort of CLI on it, but there are some where you have to manually download it. Both interfaces have vast differences, but they also share some similarities.

Similarities between the interfaces are slim, but a major and most important one is that you can still open and change files on both GUI and CLI. Visually, the interfaces have many differences. One difference being that on GUI, you click on icons to access certain files and you can left-right click on files to change certain things about them, IE their name, where they're located etc. An example being, you click on your files icon to open up all the files that are on your computer, and you click on a document icon to access all the documents on your computer, and so on and so forth. While CLI is a more technical interface. Command line interface a terminal that you open up on your computer and type commands into to open files instead of clicking on icons. The way that you change files in CLI is by typing and writing coded commands into the terminal. Say you want to open up your documents in CLI instead of GUI. You would do this by opening your command line window and entering the command, "`cd Documents.`" CLI may sound more challenging, but it's really not that scary once you understand its coding language. Another key difference between GUI and CLI is the name of files. Like in GUI, folders are called folders but in CLI folders, folders are called directories. CLI uses

different terminology to reference things than GUI. Folders versus directories was just one of many examples. Most people don't work with CLI, but it does have its perks.

A question that might come up to folks is "why would I use Command line interface over graphic user interface?" The reason you might use CLI over GUI is that, in a pinch, CLI can be much quicker than GUI. Another reason to use CLI over GUI is if your mouse icon is not working and you can't actually click on any icons on your screen. You can use CLI to open and adjust files. Also if you have a program or an app that is frozen and you can't quit by clicking on its X icon, you can also open up the terminal and command your computer to close that program.

At the end of the day command line interface and graphic user interface are just similar tools to use to get the same end result. Some people might prefer one over the other, but realistically they both have their advantages and disadvantages. To say that one interface is better than the other is simply a misunderstanding of their uses.