

# Learn the Command Line

## Navigating the File System

[Print cheatsheet](#)

### Print Working Directory `pwd`

The shell command `pwd` displays the file path from the root directory to the current working directory.

```
$ pwd
/Users/sonny/Downloads
```

### Make Directory `mkdir`

The shell command `mkdir` can be used to make a new directory in the filesystem according to its argument. If a file path is given, the new directory will be placed at the end. Otherwise, it will create a new directory in the current working directory with the name given.

```
$ mkdir new-directory
$ ls
old-directory  new-directory
```

### List `ls`

The shell command `ls` is used to list the contents of directories. If no arguments are given, it will list the contents of the current working directory.

```
$ ls Desktop
resume.pdf
photo.png
```

### `cd` Change Directory

The shell command `cd` can be used to move throughout the filesystem of a computer. It accepts a variety of arguments:

- Full file paths.
- Names of children of the current directory.
- `..` the parent of the current directory.

```
$ cd some-directory
$ cd ..
```

## Filesystem Structure

A computer's filesystem organizes the data stored by a computer, so that it can be easily retrieved by the user. Files are typically represented by a tree-like structure, in which any parent directory can have any number of children.

The *root directory* is then found at the base of the tree.

### `touch` Create New File

The shell command `touch` creates a new file in the current working directory with the name provided.

```
$ touch secret-file.txt
```

## The Command Line

The *command line* allows a user to navigate the filesystem and run built-in programs or custom scripts. In Unix, the command line interface is called Bash, and the shell prompt is the `$`.

```
$
```