

Introduction to Terminal Commands

What is a file path?

You know how you usually save your essays in a documents folder? Most files you have live inside a folder, or a **directory**. Since you can't just click a file in the terminal, you have to tell the terminal where to access it. That is the file path (Note: this is not a URL!)

Type	File Path Example
Microsoft	C:\Documents\Newsletters\Summer2018.pdf
Mac	/Users/bd/Documents/Thesis/Thesis/Data/20171125/OMS.sav
Linux	/boot/grub/grub.conf

Make Directory

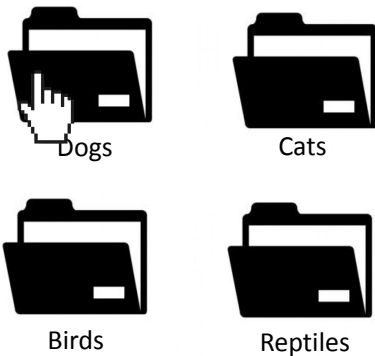
Creates a new directory inside the directory you are currently in



New Folder

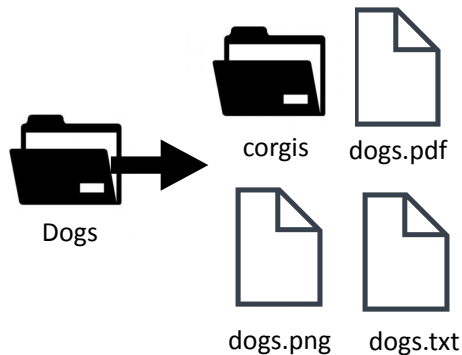
Change Directory

Changes the directory you are in



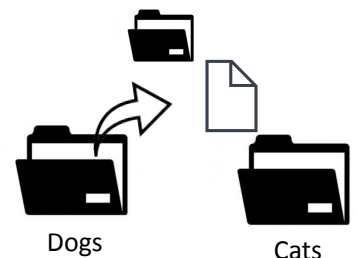
List

Displays all the contents inside the directory



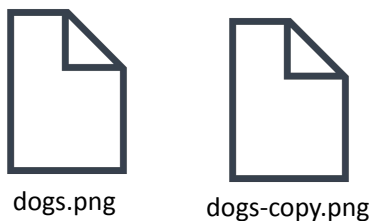
Move

Moves a directory or file to another location



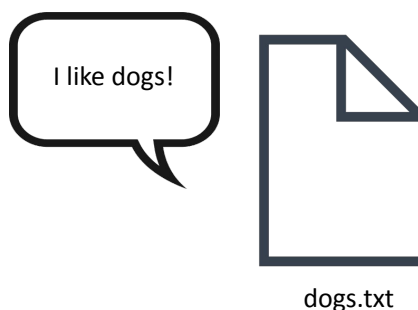
Copy

Creates a copy of the file or directory and places it in the current directory



Concatenate

Can be used to create, display, and combine text files (files ending in .txt)



Remove

Deletes unwanted folders or files



Other Terminal Commands

This is a place you can put any other terminal commands you learn about later on!

Terminal Command Examples

To **open** a file, go to the directory the file is in and enter the filename.

Make Directory

Creates a new directory inside the directory you are currently in

Type	Syntax	Example
Windows	mkdir <directory>	If you are already inside the right directory: mkdir MyDirectory
Mac / Linux		If you're not in the right directory: mkdir C:/.../RightDirectory/MyDirectory (depending on the full filepath)

Change Directory

Changes the directory you are in

Type	Syntax	Example
Windows	cd <path to directory>	cd Python Decal/Homework
Mac / Linux		

List

Displays all the contents inside the directory

Type	Syntax	Example
Windows	dir	dir
Mac / Linux	ls	ls

Move

Moves a directory or file to another location

Type	Syntax	Example
Windows	move "myFile" <path to destination directory>	move "dogs.png" Documents
Mac / Linux	mv myFile <path to destination directory>	mv homework1.ipynb ~/Desktop/Finished_HW

Terminal Command Examples

Copy

Creates a new directory

Type	Syntax	Example
Microsoft	copy "myFile" <path to destination directory>	copy "Syllabus.pdf" Documents
Mac / Linux	cp myFile <path to destination directory>	cp image.fits ~/Desktop/Research_Folder

Concatenate

Opens and displays text files

Type	Syntax	Example
Windows	myTextFile	instructions.txt
Mac / Linux	cat myTextFile	cat instructions.txt

Remove

Deletes a file

Type	Syntax	Example
Windows	del "myFile"	del "bad_data.txt"
Mac / Linux	rm myFile	rm bad_data.txt

Other Useful Commands

Rename a File

Type	Syntax	Example
Microsoft	mv "myFile" "newFileName"	mv "dogs.png" "corgi.png"
Mac / Linux	mv myFile newFileName	mv dogs.png corgi.png

Delete Directory

Type	Syntax	Example
Windows	rmdir "myDirectory"	rmdir "bad_vibes"
Mac / Linux	rm -r myDirectory	rm -r "bad_vibes"