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## Command Line Interface

Getting started with the command line



### Background:

The command line interface is a program on your computer that allows you to create and delete files, run programs, and navigate through folders and files. On a Mac, it's called Terminal, and on Windows, it's Command Prompt.

Most developers navigate their computers and run the programs they build directly from the Command Line. Using a few typed words, you can run a program you wrote, move through your computer's file system, and even edit existing files. The Command Line is a powerful application and will unlock new avenues in your programming ability.

This article will walk you through how to find and begin using the Command Line on your own machine. We won't cover how to use and manipulate the command line interface in much detail. If you're not familiar with the command line, take our [Learn the Command Line](#) course.

**Pro Tip:** Command line interface is commonly abbreviated to "CLI."

### Wake Up Terminal! (Mac)

- Find the Terminal application with Finder and navigate to the directory of your choice. If you took Codecademy's [Learn the Command Line](#) course, you'll already know how to do this. Otherwise, see the instructions below.

#### Instructions

- When you first open Terminal, you are in the root directory. Navigate to your Documents directory with `cd Documents`.
- Create a new folder called "my\_project" with `mkdir my_final_project`.
- Change your directory to the folder you just created with `cd my_project`.
- Create a test file with `touch test.rb` (This will create a ruby file within the my\_project folder).

### Wake Up Command Prompt! (Windows)

- Search for the Command Prompt program and navigate to the directory of your choice. If you took Codecademy's [Learn the Command Line](#) course, you'll already know how to do this. Otherwise, see the instructions below.

## Instructions

- When you first open Terminal, you are in the root directory. Navigate to your Documents directory with `cd Documents`.
- Create a new folder called "my\_project" with `mkdir my_project`.
- Change your directory to the folder you just created with `cd my_project`
- Open Sublime Text, click on File > New File , then navigate to Documents > my\_project, and save the file as `test.rb`. (This will create a ruby file within the my\_project folder.)

## Wrap-Up

Now that you've awakened your Command Line, it's time to start using it. Since the Command Line is text-based, it can seem intimidating. Don't worry though, it is pretty simple and the rewards for learning its commands will come back to you over and over.

You can start learning the command line in our [Learn the Command Line](#) course. There, you'll learn how to move through your computer's file system, how to create files from the command line, and much more. As you learn more programming languages within Codecademy, check out the articles associated with them. We'll teach you more language-specific commands, which will prepare you to build your very own programs.



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