

More information: <https://goo.gl/TECDIf> and <https://goo.gl/ljs6et>

Introduction to the Unix Command Line

General tips

- Uppercase and lowercase letters are different: A file called `thesis.txt` is different from `Thesis.txt` and `tHeSiS.tXt`
- Depending on the terminal/ ssh client you are using you might be able to copy-paste from one window to another
- Press the up and down arrows on your keyboard to cycle through previous commands
- Tab will autocomplete file/directory names when typing commands
- Be careful with spaces when writing commands - spaces should separate each option or argument

Get some starter files:

`git clone https://github.com/callaghanmt/shell-training.git`

Basic navigation commands

Command	Purpose
<code>ls</code>	list contents of the current directory (except hidden files)
<code>ls -a</code>	list all contents of the current directory
<code>ls -l</code>	long-form list of contents, showing file properties
<code>ls <path></code>	list contents of specified directory
<code>pwd</code>	print working directory (full path)
<code>cd <path></code>	go to specified directory
<code>cd ..</code>	go up one level to parent directory
<code>cd ~</code>	go to current user's home directory

File and directory management

Command	Purpose
<code>mkdir <new-directory></code>	create a new directory
<code>mkdir -p abc/123</code>	create two directories: one called 123 inside another called abc
<code>cp <file-name> <new-file-name></code>	create a copy of a file with a new name
<code>cp <file-name> <path></code>	copy a file to another folder
<code>cp <file-name> <path>/<new-file-name></code>	create a copy with a new name in another folder
<code>mv <file-name> <new-file-name></code>	rename a file
<code>mv <file-name> <path></code>	move a file to another folder
<code>rm <file-name></code>	delete a file
<code>rm -r <directory></code>	delete a directory and all of its contents
<code>nano <file-name></code>	open a new or existing file in a simple text editor
<code>chmod ug+x <file-name></code>	give user and group execute permission for a file

Inspecting file contents

Command	Purpose
<code>cat <file-name></code>	print the contents of a file to the screen
<code>less <file-name></code>	opens file contents for inspection, allows scrolling, type q to quit
<code>head -5 <file-name></code>	prints first 5 lines of a file
<code>tail -3 <file-name></code>	prints last 3 lines of a file
<code>sdiff <file-name> <file-name></code>	visualise and compare two files side by side

Wildcards

Command	Purpose
<code>ls *.txt</code>	list all files ending in .txt
<code>ls ???</code>	list all files with names exactly three characters long
<code>ls [abc]*</code>	list all files beginning with a, b or c

Output redirection and piping

Command	Purpose
<code>echo "Some text" > a-file</code>	send standard output of a command to a file (overwrites existing content)
<code>echo "Some text" >> a-file</code>	append standard output of a command to the end of a file (no overwrite)
<code>ls sort</code>	pipe standard output of a command to another command

Variables, sequences and loops

Command	Purpose
<code>VAR1=hello</code>	create a variable and set its value
<code>echo \$VAR1</code>	print the value of VAR1
<code>FILENAMES=\$(ls)</code>	save the output of a command as a variable
<code>SUM=\$((2 + \$TWO))</code>	perform integer arithmetic with variables
<code>seq 5 10</code>	print a sequence from 5 to 10
<code>seq 1 2 9</code>	print a sequence from 1 to 9 with a stride of 2
<code>seq -f %03g 1 2 9</code>	print a sequence padded with zeroes to the left
<code>for i in \$(seq 1 5); do echo iteration\$i; done</code>	loop through a sequence and repeat for each value
<code>for ((i=1; i<=5; i++)); do echo iteration\$i; done</code>	alternative method for looping through a sequence