

The mv command in Unix-like operating systems is used to **move or rename files and directories**. It's a versatile tool with various flags to customize its behavior.

Basic Usage:

- **Moving a file:** mv source_file destination_file
- **Moving a directory:** mv source_directory destination_directory
- **Renaming a file:** mv old_name new_name

Common Flags:

- **-f, --force:** Overwrites existing files without prompting.
- **-i, --interactive:** Prompts before overwriting existing files.
- **-n, --no-clobber:** Do not overwrite existing files.
- **-v, --verbose:** Displays detailed information about the moved files.

Additional Useful Flags:

- **-u, --update:** Only move files that are newer in the source than the destination.
- **-b, --backup:** Creates a backup of the existing destination file before overwriting.

Examples:

- Move the file "file1.txt" to the "documents" directory: mv file1.txt documents/
- Rename the file "old_file.txt" to "new_file.txt": mv old_file.txt new_file.txt
- Move multiple files to a directory: mv file1.txt file2.txt file3.txt /path/to/destination/

Important Note:

- Be cautious when using mv, especially with the -f flag, as it can overwrite existing files without confirmation.
- Always ensure you have the necessary permissions to move files and directories.

For more information and detailed explanations of each flag, you can refer to the man page:

```
man mv
```