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!)

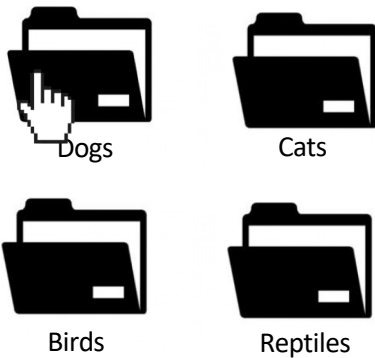| Type	File Path Example
Microsoft	C:\Documents\Newsletters\Summer2018.pdf
Mac	/Users/bd/Documents/Thesis/Thesis/Data/20171125/OMS.sav
Linux	/boot/grub/grub.conf

Make Directory

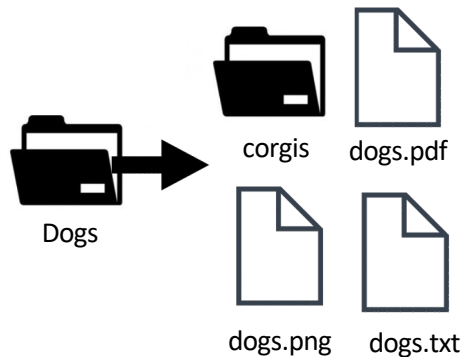Creates a new directory inside the directory you are currently in

New Folder
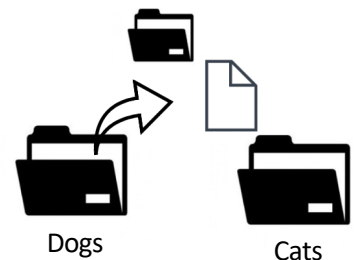
Change Directory

Changes the directory you are in

Dogs   Cats

Birds   Reptiles

List

Displays all the contents inside the directory

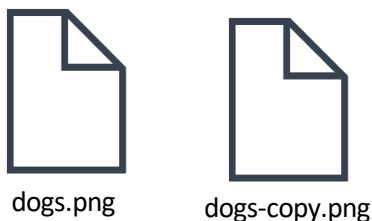Dogs

corgis   dogs.pdf

dogs.png   dogs.txt

Move

Moves a directory or file to another location

Dogs   Cats

Copy

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

dogs.png   dogs-copy.png

Concatenate

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

I like dogs!

dogs.txt
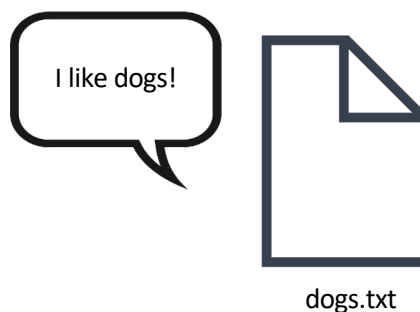
Remove

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		**If you are already inside the right directory:** mkdir MyDirectory
Mac / Linux	**mkdir** <directory>	**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		
Mac / Linux	**cd** <path to directory>	cd Python Decal/Homework

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"