Home Notes

Organizing my references

For a while I was keeping all of my downloaded papers and books (all PDF format) in one large directory called Literature, where I name the document [FirstAuthorLastName] [Year]_[other stuff].pdf where [other stuff] could be things like the name the journal gave the file when distributing it.]

Well today I had over 500 files in that folder, and loading it in my file browser was becoming slow.

So I wanted to creat subdirectories which simlpy organized by author, with one directory per letter. Here's how I did that with a few linux commands.

First, I capitolized all the file names:

```
rename -n 's/./\U$&/' *
```

The -n will print what the rename command intends to do. Remove it to actually perform the renaming.

Second, I created directories with names A-Z:

```
mkdir {A..Z}
```

Third and finally, for each letter I moved all files begining with that letter into the corresponding directory:

```
for f in {A..Z}; do mv $f* $f/; done
```

Now I only have 26 items in the main directory, except for files yet to be sorted, and things load much faster.