Knowing How the Command Line is Processed

Module 10

Overview

- In this module:

- How the Command Line is Processed

- Quoting

- Command Separators

- Interactive Features – Command Line Editing & History

How the Command Line is Processed

- What does this do?

- cp this is a file name containing spaces newname

- Or this?

- rm isthisafile?

Quoting

- Tell the shell to treat special characters as plain text

- Protect them from the shell

- Three forms:

- \   escape next character

- ' '   treat everything in single quotes literally

- " "   treat everything in double quotes literally, except for $, \ and '

Examples

- cp "this is a file name containing spaces" newname

- rm isthisafile\?

- Shell first **rewrites** command line

| cp | this is a file name containing spaces | newname |

- then runs the cp program

| cp | this is a file name containing spaces | newname |

argument 0   argument 1

argument 2

cp program

Module 2

Command Separators

- Normally <RETURN> separates commands

- ';' does too

- date ; who ; cp filea fileb ; df -h

Interactive Features – Command Line Editing

- Editing keys:

- Up/Down arrow keys   browse command history

- Left/Right   move within line

- ^A   start of line

- ^E   end of line

Interactive Features – Command Completion

- Hit TAB

- after partially typing a filename, pathname or command

- Hit TAB twice

- to display matching entries

Interactive Features – History

- history command

- Recalling commands

- by number

  - !1082

- by search

  - !mo

- Interactive Search

- ^R　　　　　type more letters to narrow the search