Basic Unix Commands

| | Syntax | Explanation | Example | Options |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Connecting to UNIX system | | You can use different client to connect to UNIX system from Windows machine. You can download some of these clients for free: e.g. Putty (google for "download Putty") | | |
| Logging in | | Logging in to a UNIX system requires a username and a password. | | |
| Listing Files and Directories | ls | Lists the content of your current working directory | ls | -a: list the files and directories starting with . |
| Making Directories | mkdir <directory_name></directory_name> | Make a subdirectory in your home directory with the given name | mkdir cs0132 | |
| Changing Directory | cd <directory_name></directory_name> | Change the current working directory to the given directory | cd cs0132 | cd: change directory to your home directory cd: go back one directory |
| Finding the Pathnames | pwd | Finding out the current working directory | pwd | , |
| Creating File | touch <filename></filename> | Creating empty file without editing | touch commands.txt | |
| | Using editor such as emacs, vi | Creating and editing a file | | |
| Viewing the content of a File | cat <filename></filename> | View the content of the file | cat commands.txt | |
| | less <filename></filename> | View the content of the file – allows backup in a file | less commands.txt | spacebar: go to next page b: go to previous age |
| Copying Files | cp <source/> <destination></destination> | Make a copy of the source file into the specified destination | cp commands.txt test.txt | |
| Help on commands | man <command/> | Displays reference manual pages | man less | |

Few Unix Tutoriasl on the Web

- http://www.cgi101.com/help/unixhelp.html
- http://www.isu.edu/departments/comcom/unix/workshop/unixindex.html
- Google for "Unix Tutorial"