

## FLEXIBILITY OF COMMAND USAGE

UNIX allows you to specify more than one command in the same command line. Each command is separated from the other by a ; (semicolon) :

Who ; ls -l

The ; is one of special characters that are understood by the shell. These special characters are known as **metacharacters**.

we note ; ls -l notes

### A command line can overflow :

- When a command has more characters than the terminal width, it simply overflows to the next line.
- You may want to spread the command into multiple lines. The shell issues a **secondary prompt**, usually > (or ?).

\$ echo "This is

> a three-line

> text message"

- Usually >, indicate to you that the command line isn't complete.
- In C shell you have to enter a \ (backslash).
- Subsequent commands can be entered at the keyboard without waiting for the prompt. There is a type ahead buffer ( a temporary storage area ) which stores all these commands and passes them on for execution.
- A command may not have behave in the way you want because UNIX comes in many flavors.
- The **uname** can print system information.

\$ uname

Linux