



rishabh201 / unit\_1



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rishabh201 Update basic.md

1084514 · 2 minutes ago



253 lines (164 loc) · 4.68 KB

Preview

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Raw



Here's a **detailed tutorial on basic terminal commands** that work on **Linux, macOS, and Git Bash (Windows)**. These commands are essential for navigating and managing files from the terminal, especially for coding and version control (e.g., Git, VS Code, etc.).

## ✓ 1. Navigation Commands

### pwd – Print Working Directory

Shows the current location in the filesystem.

```
pwd
```



📌 Output example:

```
/Users/yourname/projects
```



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop$ pwd
/home/vboxuser/Desktop
```

---

### ls – List Directory Contents

Lists files and folders in the current directory.

```
ls
```



- `ls -l` → Detailed list (permissions, size, date)
- `ls -a` → Shows hidden files (those starting with `.` )
- `ls -la` → Combined

```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop$ ls
hello  hello.c  parent_folder
```

## cd – Change Directory

Moves into a directory.

```
cd folder_name
```



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop$ cd parent_folder
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ mkdir
```

Examples:

```
cd Documents      # Go to Documents
cd ..             # Go up one level
cd /              # Go to root
cd ~              # Go to home directory
```



## ✓ 2. File and Directory Management

### mkdir – Make Directory

Creates a new folder.

```
mkdir new_folder
```



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ mkdir newfolder
```

### touch – Create File

Creates an empty file.

```
touch file.txt
```



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ touch file.txt
```

## cp – Copy Files or Directories

```
cp source.txt destination.txt
```



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ cp file.txt file2.txt
```

- Copy folder:

```
cp -r folder1 folder2
```



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ mkdir folder2  
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ cp -r newfolder folder2
```

## mv – Move or Rename Files

```
mv oldname.txt newname.txt
```



```
mv file.txt ~/Documents/      # Move file
```



## rm – Remove Files

```
rm file.txt          # Delete file  
rm -r folder_name    # Delete folder (recursively)
```



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ rm file.txt
```



**Be careful!** There is no undo.

## ✓ 3. File Viewing & Editing

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### cat – View File Contents

Displays content in terminal.

```
cat file.txt
```



### nano – Edit Files in Terminal

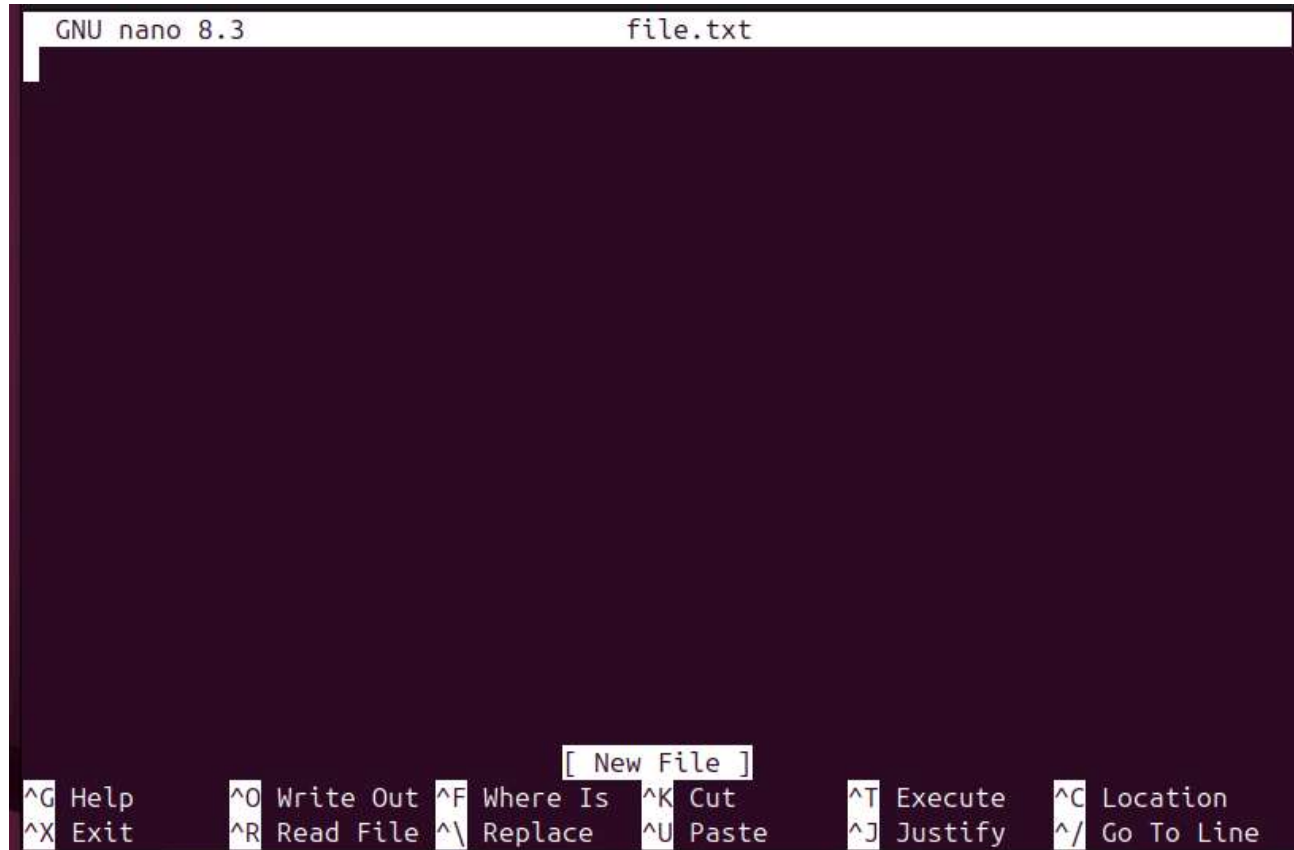
A basic terminal-based text editor.

```
nano file.txt
```



- Use arrows to move
- CTRL + O to save
- CTRL + X to exit

```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop$ nano file.txt
```



## clear – Clears the Terminal

```
clear
```



## Shortcut: CTRL + L

```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$
```

## ✓ 4. System Commands

### echo – Print Text

Useful for debugging or scripting.

```
echo "Hello, World!"
```



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ echo "hello world"
hello world
```

## whoami – Show Current User

whoami



```
vboxuser@ubuntu1:~/Desktop/parent_folder$ whoami
vboxuser
```

## man – Manual for Any Command

man ls



Use `q` to quit the manual.


## ✓ 5. Searching and Finding

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### find – Locate Files

```
find . -name "*.txt"
```



 Finds all `.txt` files in current folder and subfolders.

 alt text

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### grep – Search Inside Files

```
grep "hello" file.txt
```



 Searches for the word `hello` inside `file.txt`.

## ✓ 6. Helpful Shortcuts

Shortcut	Action
Tab	Auto-complete files/folders
↑ / ↓	Browse command history
CTRL + C	Stop a running command
CTRL + L	Clear screen

## ✓ 7. Bonus: Chaining Commands

- Run multiple commands:

```
mkdir test && cd test && touch hello.txt
```



- Run only if previous command succeeds: &&
- Run regardless of success: ;

// What is difference b/w chmod and chown? => chmod

changes permissions of a file or directory.

decides whether a user can read, write, or execute a file.

affects access rights.

=> chown

changes the ownership of a file or directory. decides which user or group owns the file.

chown affects file ownership.