

# Exemplar: Find files with Linux commands

## Task 1. Get the current directory information

In this task, you must use the commands you learned about to check the current working directory and list its contents.

1. Display your working directory.

The command to complete this step:

```
pwd
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

This will show that your current working directory is your home directory.

```
/home/analyst
```

2. Display the names of the files and directories in the current working directory.

The command to complete this step:

```
ls
```

Copied!

content\_copy

The output should be:

```
logs  projects  reports  temp
```

Which directory is your current working directory?

/var/logs

/home

/home/analyst/logs

/home/analyst

Submit

**Answer:** The lab starts with /home/analyst as your current working directory.

How many directories does the current working directory contain?

Five

Two

Four

One

Submit

**Answer:** The lab starts with four subdirectories in the /home/analyst directory, namely logs, notes, temp, and reports.

Click **Check my progress** to verify that you have completed this task correctly.

Get the current directory information

Check my progress

**Note:** There is no penalty for clicking **Check my progress** and you'll be shown a hint.

## Task 2. Change directory and list the subdirectories

In this task, you must navigate to a new directory and determine the subdirectories it contains.

1. Navigate to the `/home/analyst/reports` directory.

The command to complete this step using a relative path:

```
cd reports
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

**Note:** The `cd` command accepts absolute and relative paths. An absolute path includes all the directories from the root of the file system and starts with a `/`. An alternative is a relative path, which is expressed starting from the current directory and starts without the initial `/`. The above command uses a relative path.

The command to complete this step using an absolute path:

```
cd /home/analyst/reports
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

2. Display the files and subdirectories in the `/home/analyst/reports` directory.

The command to complete this step:

```
ls
```

Copied!

content\_copy

The output should be:

**users**

What is the name of the subdirectory in the /home/analyst/reports directory?

logs

users

analyst

projects

Submit

**Answer:** The subdirectory contained in the /home/analyst/reports directory is called users.

Click **Check my progress** to verify that you have completed this task correctly.

Change directory and list the subdirectories

Check my progress

## Task 3. Locate and read the contents of a file

In this task, you must navigate to a subdirectory and read the contents of a file it contains.

1. Navigate to the /home/analyst/reports/users directory.

The command to complete this step:

```
cd /home/analyst/reports/users
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

The above command uses an absolute path. You could also use a relative path as follows:

```
cd users
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

2. List the files in the current directory.

The command to complete this step:

```
ls
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

3. Display the contents of the `Q1_added_users.txt` file.

The command to complete this step:

```
cat Q1_added_users.txt
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

**Note:** The `cat` command prints the contents of a file to the shell. You can specify the file to display using absolute or relative paths.

The same command using an absolute path:

```
cat /home/analyst/reports/users/Q1_added_users.txt
```

Copied!

content\_copy

What department does the employee with the username aezra work in?

Sales

Human Resources

Finance

Information Technology

Submit

**Answer:** The employee with username aezra works in the Human Resources department.

What is the employee\_id of the user mreed in the Information Technology department?

1177

1188

1001

1104

Submit

**Answer:** The employee\_id of the employee with username mreed in the Information Technology department is 1104.

Click **Check my progress** to verify that you have completed this task correctly.

Locate and read the contents of a file

Check my progress

## Task 4. Navigate to a directory and locate a file

In this task, you must navigate to a new directory, locate a file, and examine the contents of the file.

1. Navigate to the `/home/analyst/logs` directory.

The command to complete this step:

```
cd /home/analyst/logs
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

2. Display the name of the file it contains.

The command to complete this step:

```
ls
```

Copied!

```
content_copy
```

This command will display the following output:

```
server_logs.txt
```

3. Display the first **10** lines of this file.

The command to complete this step:

```
head server_logs.txt
```

Copied!

content\_copy

**Note:** The head command displays just the beginning of a file, by default ten lines. You can specify how many lines to display using the -n argument, which specifies the number of lines to display.

How many warning messages are in the first 10 lines of the server\_logs.txt file?

Six

One

Three

Two

Submit

**Answer:** There are three warning messages in the first 10 lines of the server\_logs.txt file.

Click **Check my progress** to verify that you have completed this task correctly.

Navigate to a directory and locate a file

Check my progress

## Conclusion

Great work!

You now have practical experience in using basic Linux Bash shell commands to

- navigate directory structures with the cd command,



- display the current working directory with the `pwd` command,
- list the contents of a directory with the `ls` command, and
- display the contents of files with the `cat` and `head` commands.

Navigating through directories and reading file contents are fundamental skills that you'll often use when communicating through the shell.