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| **Softlink or Symbolic link** | **Hardlink** |
| Shortcut to the file | Another file which points to the data |
| If original file is deleted, Data is lost | if original file is deleted, Data is not lost  We can recover using the hard link |
| Syntax: ln –s <filename> <soft link> | Syntax: ln <filename> <hardlink> |
| Inode nos of soft link and original file are different | Inode nos of hard link and original file  Are same |
| Soft link can point to a dir | Hard link cannot point a dir |
| Softlink can point to a file in another partition | Hard link cannot point to a file in another partition |
| Size of soft link is displayed as no. of  Characters of original file name in ls –l display | Size of hard link is displayed as original file size in  ls –l display |
| A pointer to original file is displayed  in ls –l display | Link count is incremented in ls –l display |

Softlink = Softlink -> file ->data

Hardlink= file ->data <-harddlink