Cheat Sheet Terminal Commands

Files

\$ rm <file>

Delete <file>

\$ rm -r <directory>

Delete < directory >

\$ rm -f <file>

Force-delete <file> (add -r to force-delete

a directory)

\$ mv <file-old> <file-new>

Rename <file-old> to <file-new>

\$ mv <file> <directory>

Move <file> to <directory> (possibly overwriting an existing file)

\$ cp <file> <directory>

Copy <file> to <directory> (possibly overwriting an existing file)

\$ touch <file>

Create <file>

\$ echo "text" > <file>

Write "text" into <file>

\$ cp -r <directory1> <directory2>

Copy <directory1> and its contents to <directory2> (possibly overwriting files

in an existing directory)

Search

\$ find <dir> -name "<file>"

Find all files named <file> inside <dir>

Directories

\$ pwd

Display path of current working directory

\$ cd <directory>

Change directory to <directory>

\$ cd ..

Navigate to parent directory

\$ 1s

List directory contents

\$ 1s -1a

List detailed directory contents, including hidden files

\$ mkdir <directory>

Create new directory named <directory>

Output

\$ cat <file>

Output the contents of <file>

\$ less <file>

Output the contents of <file> using the less command (which supports pagination etc.)

\$ head <file>

Output the first 10 lines of <file>

\$ <cmd> > <file>

Direct the output of <cmd> into

(use wildcards [
] to search for parts of filenames, e.g. "file.
")

\$ grep "<text>" <file>

Output all occurrences of <text>
inside
<file> (add -i for case-insensitivity)
Search for all files containing <text>

\$ grep -rl "<text>" <dir>
inside <dir>

<file>

\$ <cmd> >> <file>

Append the output of <cmd> to <file>

\$ <cmd1> | <cmd2>

Direct the output of <cmd1> to <cmd2>

\$ clear

Clear the command line window