East West University
Department of Computing Science and Engineering
CSE-325: Operating System, Lab-1

Objective: Working with file and directory commands at Linux command line.

Absolute Path: An absolute path is defined as the specifying the location of a file or directory from the root directory (/). In other words, we can say absolute path is a complete path from start of actual filesystem from / directory.

Example: */home/kowshika/EWU/CSE325/Lab/Lab 1/CSE325_Lab_1.pdf* and *~/EWU/CSE325/Lab/Lab 1/CSE325_Lab_1.pdf are* absolute paths of the file CSE325_Lab_1.pdf.

Relative Path: Relative path is defined as path with respect to the present working directory(pwd).

Example: In the previous example of the file CSE325_Lab_1.pdf, if current directory is EWU, the relative path of the pdf file is *CSE325/Lab/Lab 1/CSE325_Lab_1.pdf* or *./CSE325/Lab/Lab 1/CSE325_Lab_1.pdf*.

Commands

pwd (Prints the current working directory)

Syntax: pwd

mkdir (Creates new directories)

Syntax: mkdir *dir_path*
Example:
mkdir ABC
mkdir ~/Pictures/Food
mkdir ABC/DEF GHI ~/Videos/PQR

rmdir(Deletes empty directories)

Syntax: rmdir *dir_path*

Example:
rmdir XYZ
rmdir /home/kowshika/Videos/Picnic
rmdir ~/Videos/PQR GHI

cd (Changes current directory)

Syntax: cd *dir path*
Example:
cd ABC
cd ./ABC/DEF
cd ~/Pictures/Food

ls (Lists file and directory information)

Syntax: ls *[options] [path]*
Example:
ls
ls -l
ls -R
ls ./File.txt
ls -lR ~/Pictures/Picnic
ls -lR ~/Pictures/Picnic >> list.txt

cat

Syntax:
cat>>*file_path*
[Will create & write contents to a file.After the command, type file contents following by Ctril+D]
cat *file_path*
[Will display the content of the file]
cat *file1_path file2_path ... fileN_path >> file_name*
[Will merge the contents from file1, file2, ..., fileN into a]

Example:
cat >> file1
cat >> ~/ABC/file2.txt
cat file1
cat file1 ~/ABC/file2.txt
cat file1 ~/ABC/file2.txt >> file3

cp (Copies file)

Syntax: cp *source_path destination_path*
Example: cp file3 ~/Documents/file4.txt

mv (Renames/moves file)

Syntax: mv *source path destination path*
Example: mv ~/Documents/file4.txt ./ABC/file5

sort (Sorts contents of file according to ASCII number)

Syntax: sort *file_path*
Example:
sort ~/Documents/file4.txt
sort ~/Documents/file4.txt > ./ABC/sort.txt
sort ~/Documents/file4.txt >> ./ABC/sort.txt

chmod (Changes permission of file or directory)

All file system objects on Unix-like systems have three main types of permissions: read, write, and execute access. Permissions are bestowed upon three possible classes: the user, the user group, and all system users. After print ls -l we can see in the first column of the output, there are 10 characters that represent the permission bits. The first character represents the type of file. The remaining nine bits in groups of three represent the permissions for the user, group, and all system users.

Syntax: chmod *permission_bits file_name*
Example: chmod u=rwx,g=rw,o=r ./ABC/sort.txt

umask (Sets default permission)

Syntax: umask
Example:
umask u+w
umask u-x,g=r,o+w

permission symbol is any combination of r (read), w (write), or x (execute).
user class symbols are u(user), g(group), o(others), a(all).
permissions operators are +, -, =.
+ (allow the specified file permission to be enabled for the specified user classes)
- (prohibit the specified file permission from being enabled for the specified user classes)
= (allow the specified file permission to be enabled for the specified user classes)

Any command output can be appended to a file using >> operator
Any command output can be written to a file using > operator

Practice

Open a terminal in Home directory.

1. Create a directory named *Homework*.
2. Position your session in the *Homework* directory.
3. Create two more sub-directories named *Homework-1* & *Homework-2*.
4. Position your session in the *Homework-1* directory.
5. Create 2 files named *1.txt* and *2.txt* and write two lines regarding your interest in each text file.
6. Merge these 2 files into one file named *merge.txt*.
7. Change permission for *merge.txt* so that user has all 3 permissions and user group has only read and write permission and others have only read permission.
8. Do a directory listing to see the contents of *Homework-1* folder.
9. Move to *Homework-2* directory.
10. Change default permission such that execute permission is added to user, write permission is denied from group and others have only read permission.
11. Create a file named *3.txt* to and write 5 random lines in the file.
12. Sort the file and write the sorted output in a file named *sort.txt* inside *Homework-1* directory.
13. Rename *merge.txt* to *combine.txt*.
14. Merge *sort.txt* and *combine.txt* in a new file named *final.txt* inside *Homework-2* directory.
15. Move *final.txt* from *Homework-2* to *Homework* directory.
16. Recursively list the contents of *Homework* directory.
17. Change your session to *Homework* directory.
18. Display the contents of *final.txt*.