



S.B. JAIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH, NAGPUR

Practical 02

Aim: To understand and demonstrate the use of basic commands in different operating systems (Windows, Linux, and UNIX) for managing files, directories, permissions, and user interactions through a terminal or command-line interface.

Name: Shruti A. Bhabhda

USN: CM24046

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❖ **Aim:** To understand and demonstrate the use of basic commands in different operating systems (Windows, Linux, and UNIX) for managing files, directories, permissions, and user interactions through a terminal or command-line interface.

❖ **Objectives:**

1. To learn and practice fundamental command-line operations for file and directory management.
2. To explore and utilize user and permission management commands effectively.
3. To enhance system administration skills by working with commands across different operating systems.

❖ **Requirements:**

Hardware Requirements:

- **Processor:** Multi-core CPU, Intel Core i3 (3.0 GHz) or higher
- **RAM:** Minimum 4 GB (8 GB recommended for optimal performance)
- **Storage:** 100 GB HDD or SSD (Solid State Drive) for faster access
- **Network Interface:** Ethernet or Wi-Fi adapter for connectivity



Software Requirements:

- **Operating System:** Windows 10/11, Linux (Ubuntu 20.04/CentOS 8), UNIX-based OS
- **Command-line Interface:** PowerShell or Command Prompt (Windows), Terminal (Linux/UNIX)
- **Text Editor:** Nano, Vim, or Visual Studio Code for file editing
- **Administrative Privileges:** Superuser (Linux/UNIX) or Administrator (Windows) access

❖ **Theory:**

In system administration, command-line interfaces (CLI) are essential tools for managing and interacting with operating systems like Windows, Linux, and UNIX. Commands allow users to perform various tasks such as navigating directories, managing files, controlling permissions, and monitoring system performance. Each operating system provides a set of built-in commands, such as ‘man’, ‘ls’, ‘cd’, ‘mkdir’, and ‘chmod’, to facilitate efficient system management. Understanding these commands and their syntax is crucial for automating tasks, enhancing security, and ensuring optimal system functionality. This practical aims to develop foundational skills in executing and applying basic commands across different platforms.

❖ Commands:

1. Display User Manual of a Command

- Functionality: Shows the manual page with details about a command's usage, options, and arguments.
- Syntax: man <command>
- Example: man ls



2. Change Current Working Directory.

- Functionality: Changes the terminal's current working directory.
- Syntax: cd <directory-path>
- Example: cd /home/user/Documents.

3. List Contents of the Current Directory.

- Functionality: Lists all files and directories in the current location.
- Syntax: ls
- Example: ls

```
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ pwd
/home/student
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public snap Templates Videos
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ cd Document
bash: cd: Document: No such file or directory
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ mkdir test
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ rmdir test
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ touch file.txt
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ cp file.txt backup.txt
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ mv old.txt new.txt
my: command not found
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ rm file.txt
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ cat file.txt
cat: file.txt: No such file or directory
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ head file.txt
head: cannot open 'file.txt' for reading: No such file or directory
student@student-BY-OEM:~$ ps
 PID TTY      TIME CMD
 3492 pts/0    00:00:00 bash
 5878 pts/0    00:00:00 ps
student@student-BY-OEM:~$
```

4. Read/Modify/Concatenate Text Files.

- Functionality: Displays or manipulates file content.
- Syntax:
- Read: cat <filename>
- Modify: ‘nano <filename>
- Concatenate: cat <file1> <file2> > <outputfile>

5. Create a New Directory.

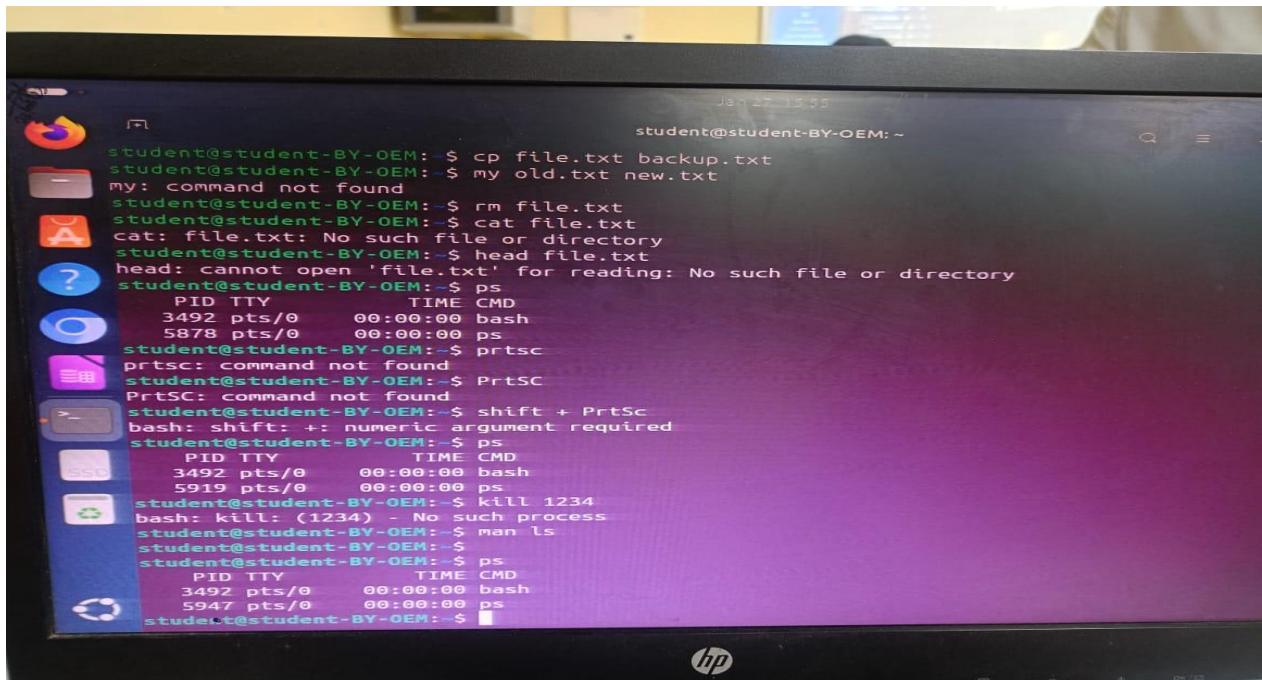
- Functionality: Creates a new directory at the specified path.
- Syntax: mkdir <directory-name>
- Example: mkdir newdir

6. Display Current Working Directory.

- Functionality: Prints the current directory path.
- Syntax: pwd
- Example: pwd



```
student@student-BY-OEM: ~ head: cannot open 'file.txt' for reading: No such file or directory
student@student-BY-OEM: ~ ps PID TTY TIME CMD
3492 pts/0 00:00:00 bash
5878 pts/0 00:00:00 ps
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ prtsc
prtsc: command not found
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ PrtSC
PrtSC: command not found
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ shift + PrtSC
bash: shift: +: numeric argument required
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ ps PID TTY TIME CMD
3492 pts/0 00:00:00 bash
5919 pts/0 00:00:00 ps
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ kill 1234
bash: kill: (1234) - No such process
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ man ls
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ ps PID TTY TIME CMD
3492 pts/0 00:00:00 bash
5947 pts/0 00:00:00 ps
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ chmod 700 file.txt
chmod: cannot access 'file.txt': No such file or directory
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ ps PID TTY TIME CMD
3492 pts/0 00:00:00 bash
5949 pts/0 00:00:00 ps
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$
```



```
student@student-BY-OEM: ~ cp file.txt backup.txt
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ my old.txt new.txt
my: command not found
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ rm file.txt
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ cat file.txt
cat: file.txt: No such file or directory
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ head file.txt
head: cannot open 'file.txt' for reading: No such file or directory
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ ps PID TTY TIME CMD
3492 pts/0 00:00:00 bash
5878 pts/0 00:00:00 ps
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ prtsc
prtsc: command not found
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ PrtSC
PrtSC: command not found
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ shift + PrtSC
bash: shift: +: numeric argument required
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ ps PID TTY TIME CMD
3492 pts/0 00:00:00 bash
5919 pts/0 00:00:00 ps
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ kill 1234
bash: kill: (1234) - No such process
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ man ls
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$ ps PID TTY TIME CMD
3492 pts/0 00:00:00 bash
5947 pts/0 00:00:00 ps
student@student-BY-OEM: ~$
```

7. Write Arguments to Standard Output.

- Functionality: Prints the provided string or variables.
- Syntax: echo <arguments>
- Example: echo Hello World

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.7623]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Shruti>echo
ECHO is on.

C:\Users\Shruti>Del
The syntax of the command is incorrect.
```

8. Remove a File.

- Functionality: Deletes a specified file.
- Syntax: rm <filename> - Example: rm file.txt

9. Delete a Directory.

- Functionality: Removes an empty directory.
- Syntax: rmdir <directory-name>
- Example: rmdir olddir

10. Copy a File or Directory.

- Functionality: Copies a file or directory to a destination.
- Syntax: cp <source> <destination>
- Example: cp file.txt backup/

```
C:\Users\Shruti>rmdir  
The syntax of the command is incorrect.  
  
C:\Users\Shruti>ls  
'ls' is not recognized as an internal or external command,  
operable program or batch file.  
  
C:\Users\Shruti>dir  
Volume in drive C is Windows  
Volume Serial Number is 8043-BA5D  
  
Directory of C:\Users\Shruti  
  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> .  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> ..  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Contacts  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Desktop  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Documents  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Downloads  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Favorites  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Links  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Music  
03-07-2024 14:39 <DIR> OneDrive  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Pictures  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Saved Games  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Searches  
27-01-2026 22:20 <DIR> Videos  
0 File(s) 0 bytes  
14 Dir(s) 116,595,572,736 bytes free
```

11. Switch to Root User.

- Functionality: Gains root privileges temporarily.
- Syntax: sudo su
- Example: sudo s

12. Move Files or Directories.

- Functionality: Moves or renames files and directories.
- Syntax: mv <source> <destination>
- Example: mv file.txt newdir/

13. Search for a String in a File.

- Functionality: Searches for a specific word or pattern in a file.
- Syntax: grep "<string>" <file> - Example: grep "error" log.txt

14. Print Top N Lines of a File.

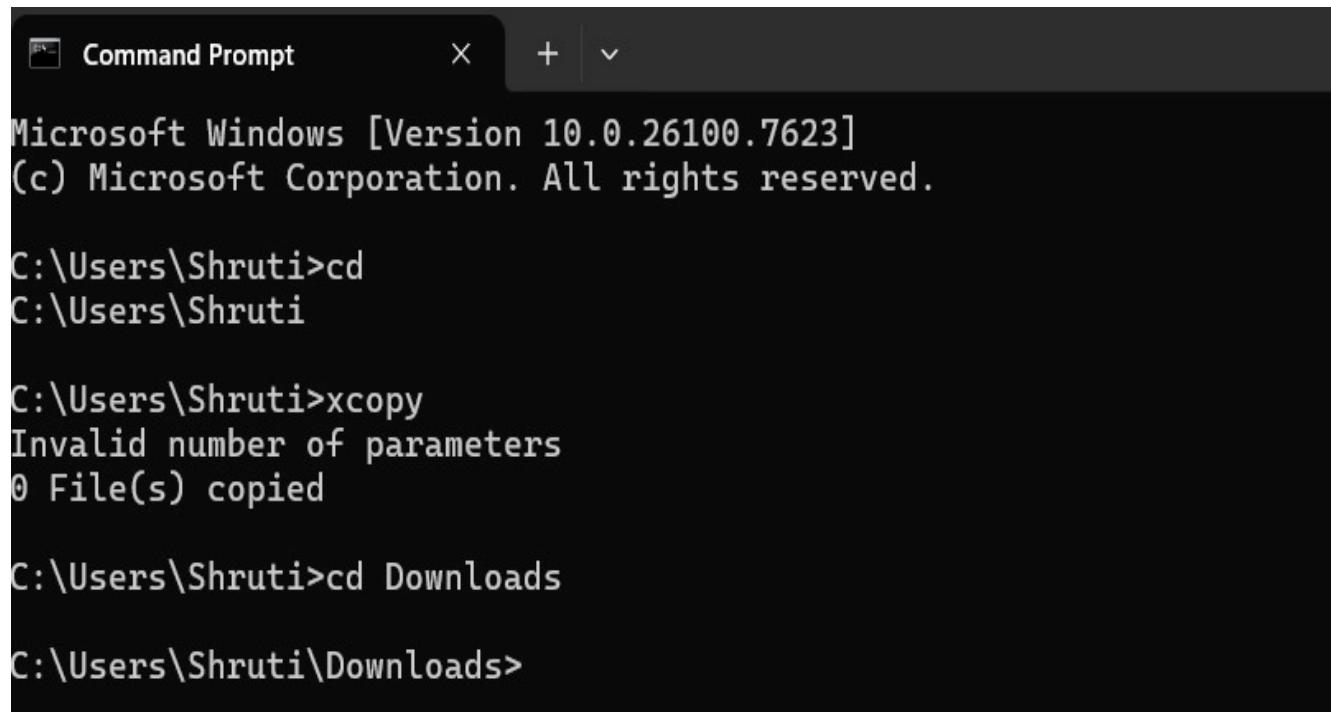
- Functionality: Displays the first N lines of a file.
- Syntax: head -n <N> <file> - Example: 'head -n 10 file.txt'

15. Print Last N Lines of a File.

- Functionality: Displays the last N lines of a file.
- Syntax: tail -n <N> <file>

16. Remove Read Permission from Owner.

- Functionality: Revokes the owner's read permission for a file.
- Syntax: chmod u-r <filename>
- Example: chmod u-r file.txt



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar says "Command Prompt". The window content is as follows:

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.7623]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Shruti>cd
C:\Users\Shruti

C:\Users\Shruti>xcopy
Invalid number of parameters
0 File(s) copied

C:\Users\Shruti>cd Downloads
C:\Users\Shruti\Downloads>
```

17. Add Write Permission to Owner, None to Others.

- Functionality: Allows write access for the owner only.
- Syntax: chmod u+w,o-rwx <filename>
- Example: chmod u+w,o-rwx file.txt

18. Assign Permissions to Users.

- Functionality: Modifies file access for users, groups, and others.
- Syntax: chmod u+rwx,g+rx,o+r <filename>
- Example: ‘chmod u+rwx,g+rx,o+r file.txt

19. Assign R/W/X to Others.

- Functionality: Gives read, write, and execute permissions to others.
- Syntax: chmod o+rwx <filename>
- Example: chmod o+rwx file.txt

20. Remove All Permissions from All Users.

- Functionality: Clears all permissions on a file.
- Syntax: ‘chmod a-rwx <filename>
- Example: ‘chmod a-rwx file.txt

21. Remove Read Permission Using Absolute Mode.

- Functionality: Uses numeric mode to restrict read access.
- Syntax: chmod 700 <filename>
- Example: chmod 700 file.txt

22. Set R/W for Owner, None for Group/Other.

- Functionality: Assigns permissions in numeric mode.
- Syntax: chmod 600 <filename>
- Example: chmod 600 file.txt’

23. Add Execute Permission to All Users.

- Functionality: Enables execution by everyone.
- Syntax: chmod a+x <filename>
- Example: chmod a+x script.sh

❖ **Conclusion:** In conclusion, understanding and using essential operating system commands like ‘ls’, ‘cd’, ‘cp’, ‘mv’, and ‘chmod’ enables efficient file management, navigation, and permission control. Tools like ‘grep’, ‘head’, and ‘tail’ enhance data processing. Mastery of these commands improves system administration, task automation, and overall system security and performance.

❖ **Discussion Questions:**

1. **What is the significance of the pwd command in a Linux environment?**
2. **Explain the function of the cp command and its common options.**
3. **How does chmod 700 affect file permissions, and what does each digit represent?**
4. **Describe the difference between head and tail commands in Linux.**
5. **What is the purpose of the grep command, and how is it used with regular expressions?**

❖ **References:**

<https://ubuntu.com/tutorials/command-line-for-beginners#1-overview>

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/25-basic-ubuntu-commands/>

Date: / /2026

Signature

Course Coordinator
B.Tech CSE(AIML)
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