

Introduction to UNIX command-line



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Introduction to UNIX command-line

- **Day 1**
 - Unix - Learning the essentials
 - Unix fundamentals , syntax and usage
- **Day 2**
 - Unix commands
 - Useful tools for processing text files
- **Day 3**
 - Useful shell commands
 - UNIX Shell Scripting

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, students will be able to:

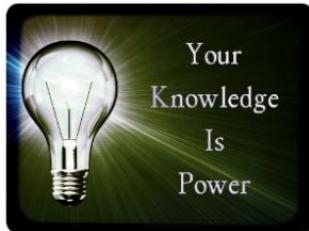
- List the attributes of Unix that make it ideal for addressing complicated biological questions using computers
- Compare and contrast the Command Line Interface (**CLI**) vs the Graphical User Interface (**GUI**)
- Identify the uses of the multiple UNIX commands
 - `pwd`, `mkdir`, and `cd` and use them to navigate within the UNIX file system

Introduction to UNIX Command Line: Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, students will be able to:

- Perform the following tasks within the UNIX environment:
 - Create a text file
 - List and reorder files
 - Display, copy, move, and delete directories and files
 - Use grep command to search text in the txt files
 - Use awk to process tab delimited files
 - Use sed to edit text in the txt files

Do biomedical researchers have to become programmers?



Google

stack**overflow**



SEQanswers
the next generation sequencing community



*provided in the class

*free and easy to use

Why Learn Unix?

- As biological data sets have grown **larger** and biological problems have become more complex, the requirements for computing power have also grown.
- Computers that can provide this power generally use the Unix operating system



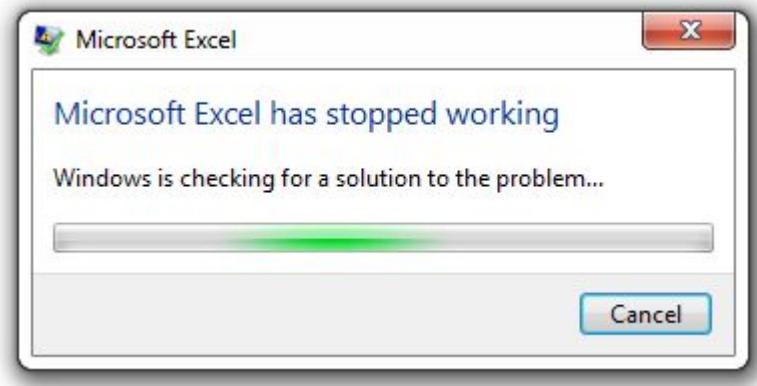
BSC-CNS | Barcelona Supercomputing Center

Why Learn Unix?

- Most new bioinformatics software is created for Unix
- Unix is very **efficient**
 - manage extremely **huge amounts of data**
- It is **very popular**, so it is easy to find information and get help
- Unix is very **stable** - computers running Unix almost never crash

Why not MS Excel?

- Excel is good for **simple tasks and small datasets**
- Excel is not able to handle **large datasets** above 1,048,576 rows and 16,384 columns
- Excel is not suitable for large number of datasets.
 - Excel cannot be automated and can process one file at the time



What is Unix?

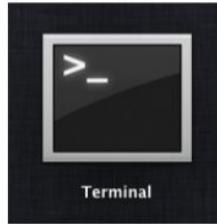
- UNIX-like system (e.g Linux, Ubuntu) is a type of operating system that lack a **graphical interface** and require inputting code.
- UNIX environment is often referred as command line interface opposed to graphical interface, which is common for Windows and MacOS.



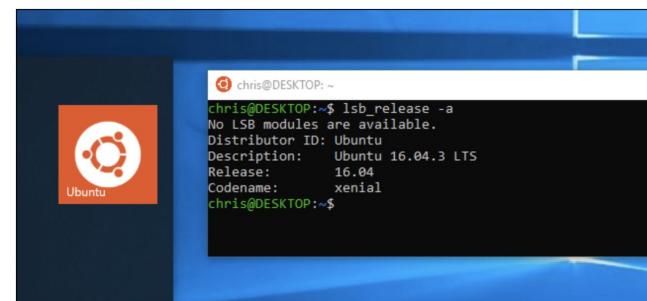
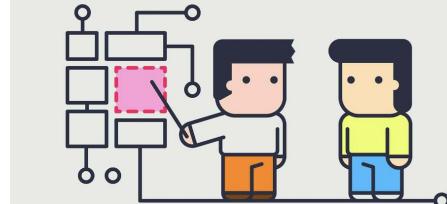
How to run UNIX



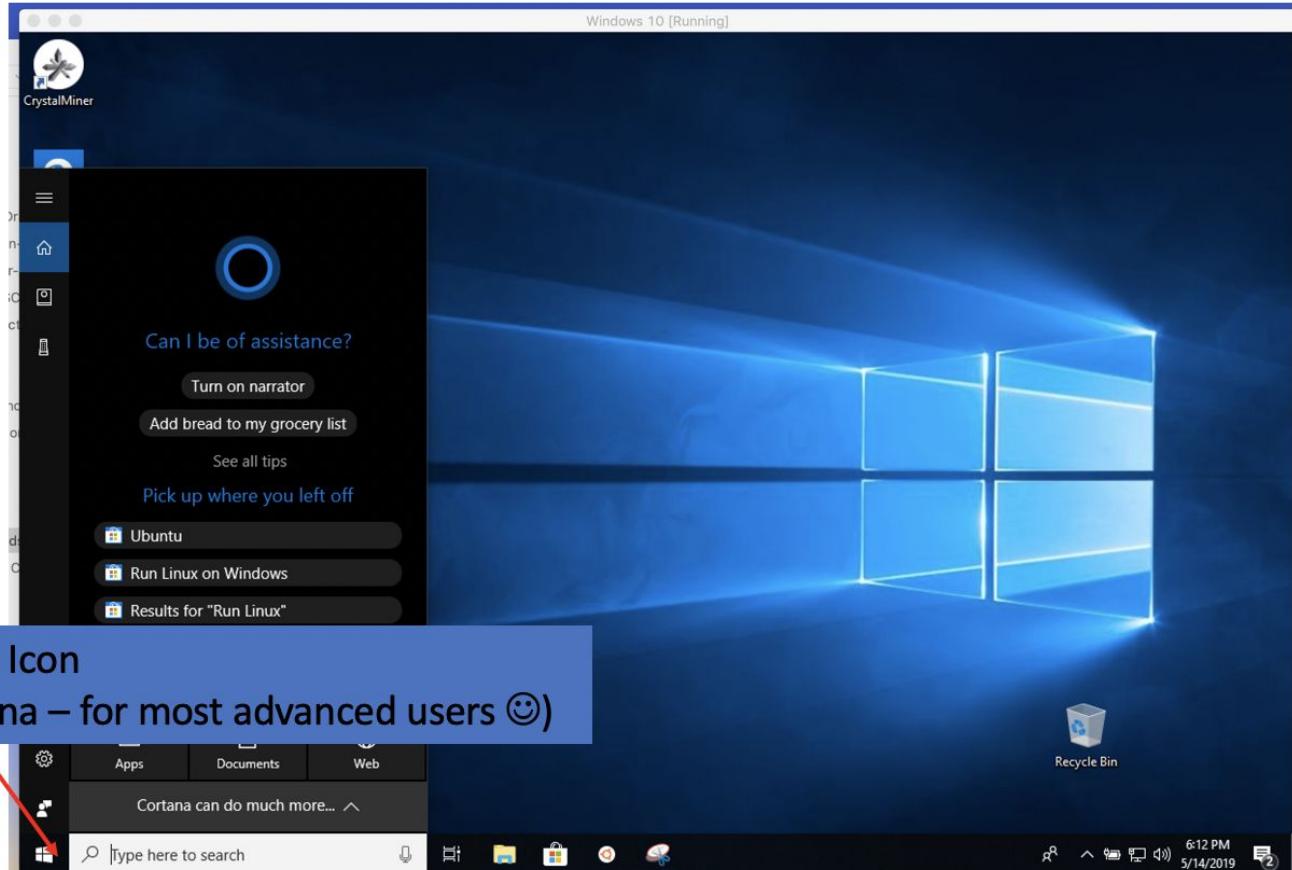
Terminal



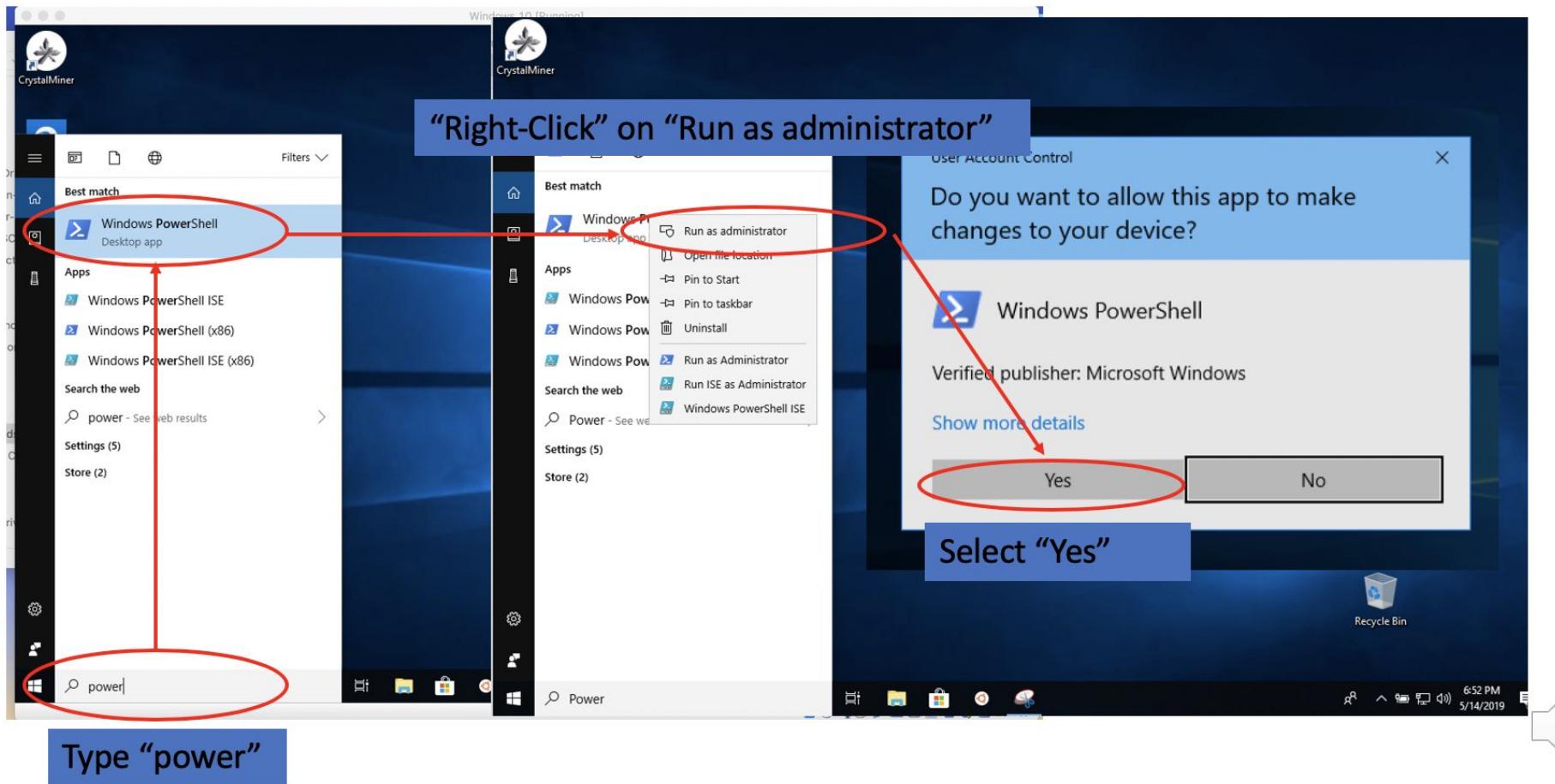
FOLLOW MULTIPLE-STEP
WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS

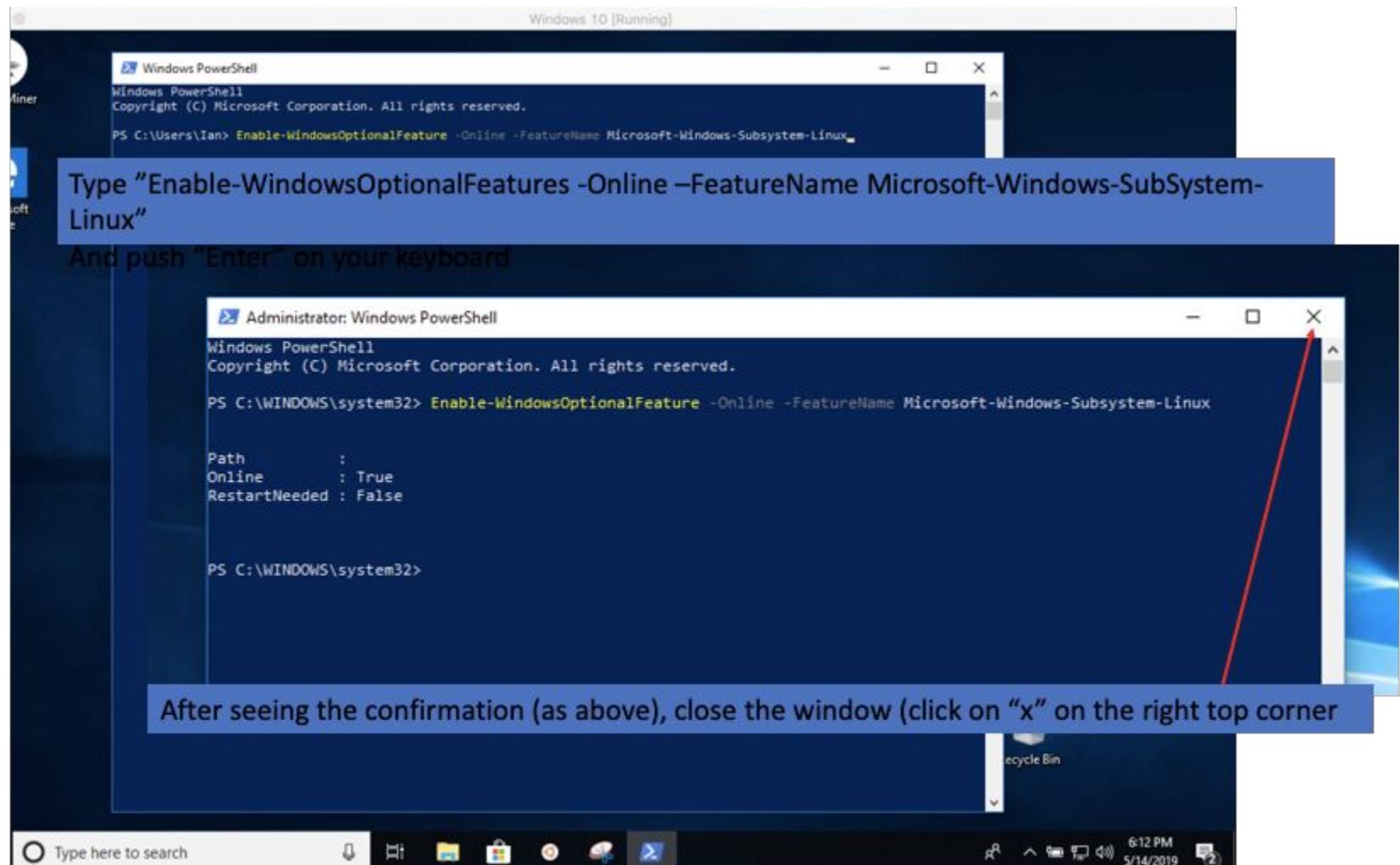


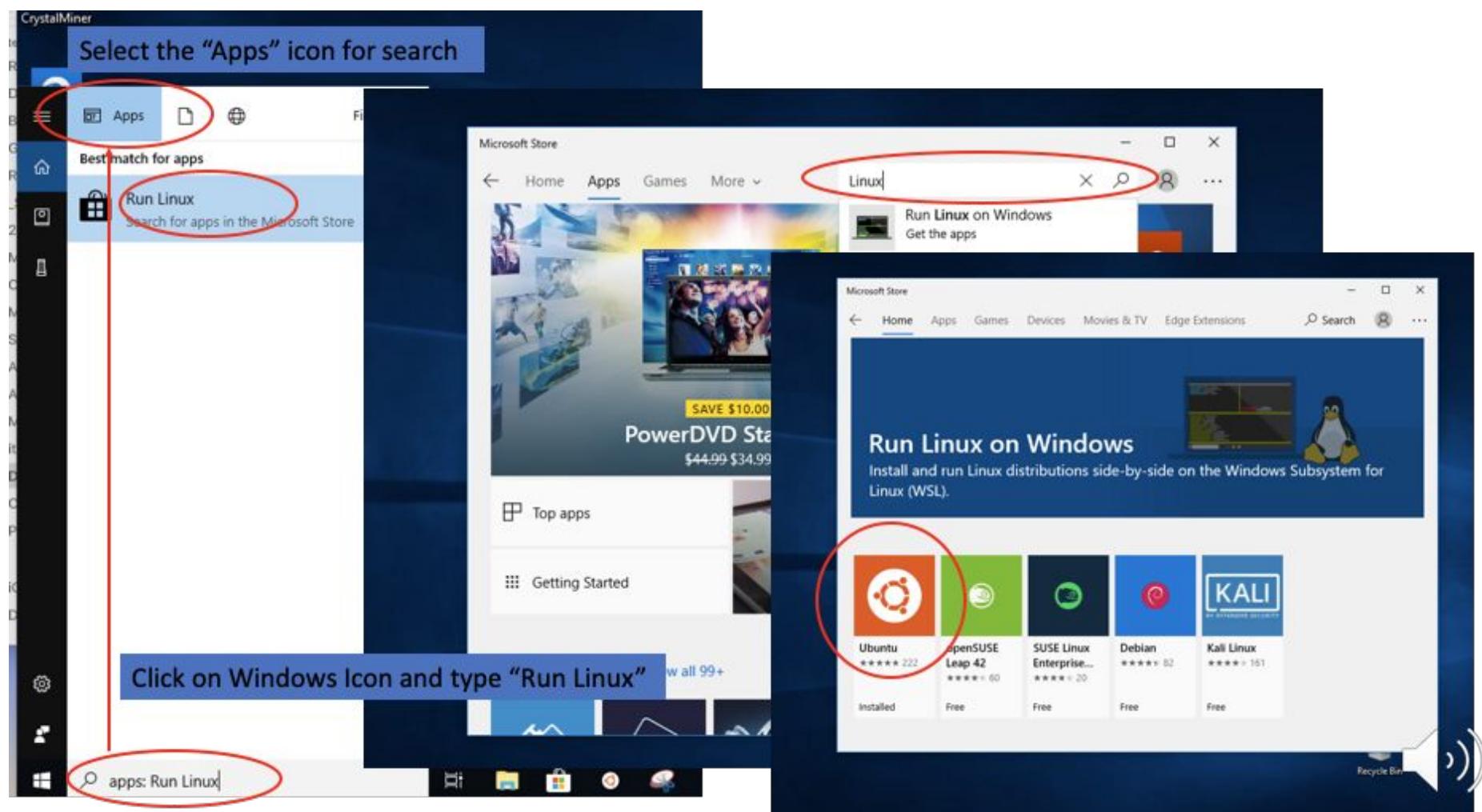
Run UNIX (Ubuntu) on Windows

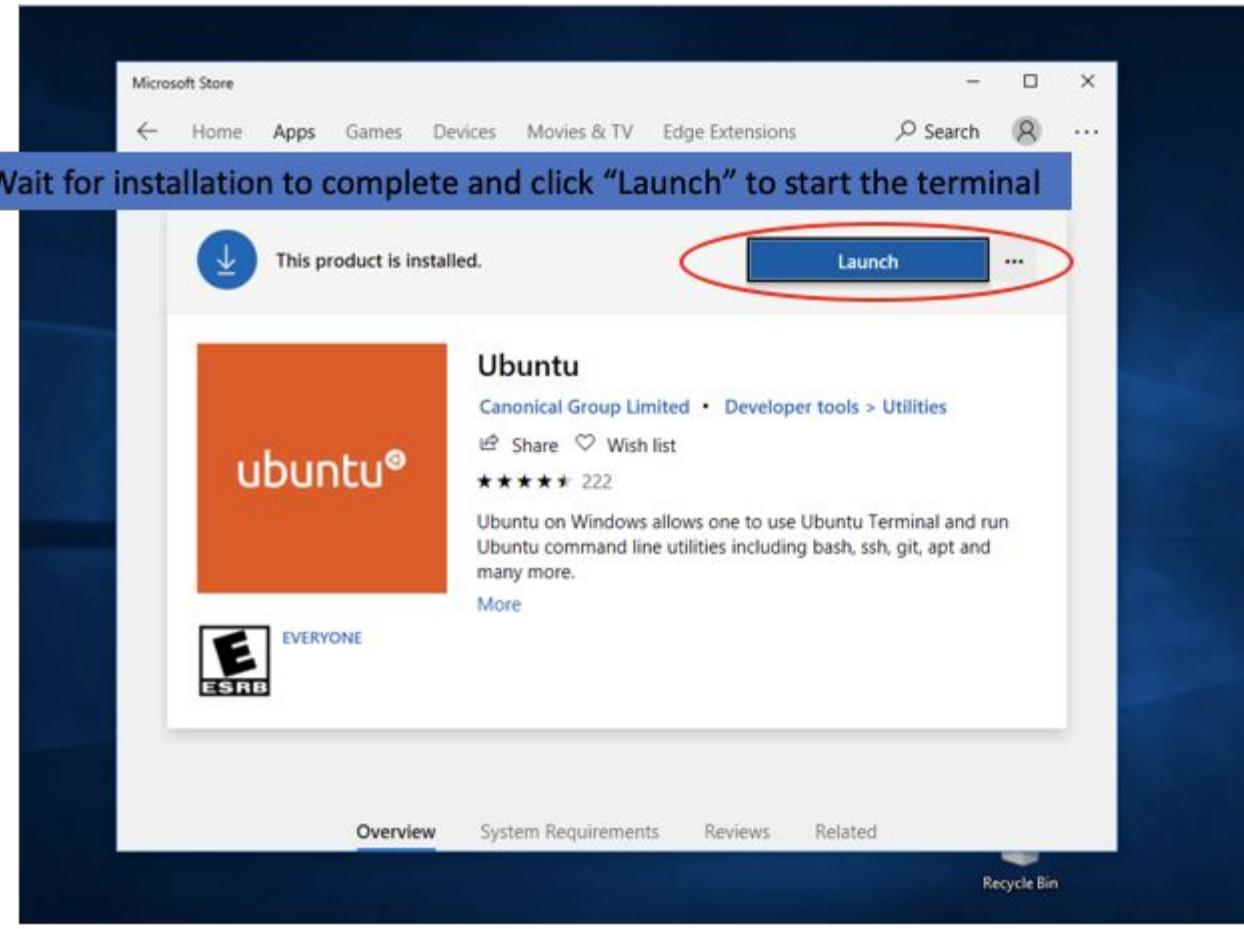


Open powershell application





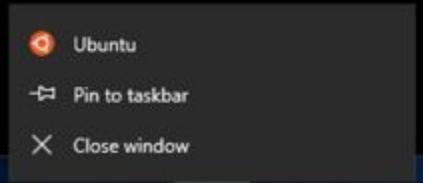




```
itoma@DESKTOP-4SI0BBT: ~
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

itoma@DESKTOP-4SI0BBT:~$
```

"Right-click" on your "Ubuntu" icon and select "Pin to Taskbar" – to have it available when needed



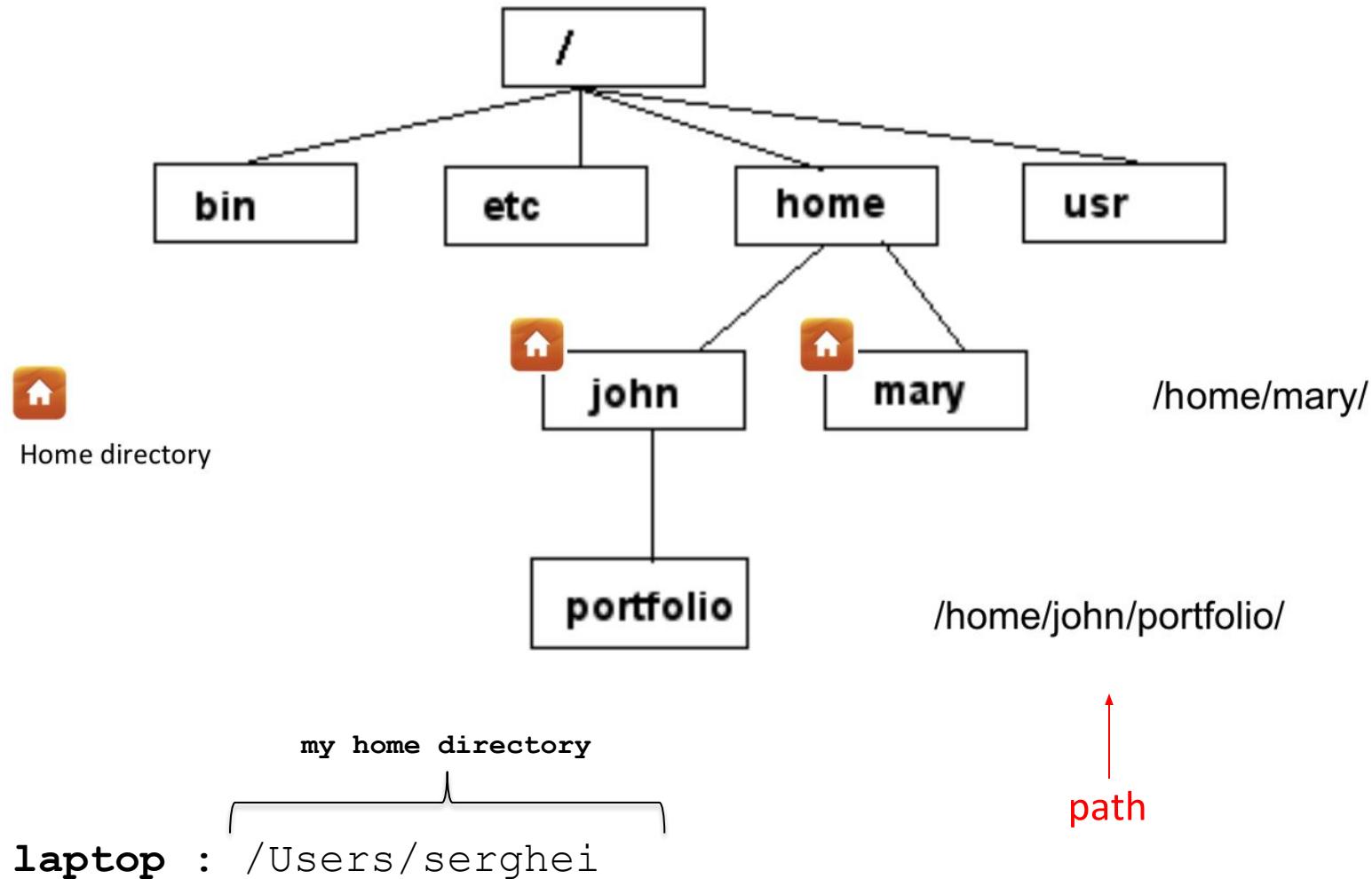
The Unix Shell



- A shell is a program that waits for you to type a command and then executes it.
 - type the command, then “return”

Unix File System

Unix is cAsE sEnsItiVe !



Home directory

- When you open terminal, you always start in your Home directory.
- Create sub-directories in your home or other directory to store specific projects or groups of information

 **Tips**

Do not accumulate thousands of files with cryptic names in your Home directory

Command: `pwd`

- To display current directory

```
[serghei@login3 ~] $ pwd  
/u/home/s/serghei
```

Command: mkdir

- To create a new directory use “mkdir”

```
[serghei@login3 ~] $ mkdir test
```



If no error message is displayed
means the command was run
successfully

Command: cd

- cd changes your current working directory

```
[serghei@login3 ~]$ cd test
[serghei@login3 test]$ pwd
/u/home/s/serghei/test
```

Command: cd

- “~” is the location of your home directory
- “..” is the location of the directory above the current one



Let's practice



```
[serghei@login3 test]$ cd ~  
[serghei@login3 ~]$ pwd  
/u/home/s/serghei  
[serghei@login3 ~]$ cd ..  
[serghei@login3 s]$ pwd  
/u/home/s  
[serghei@login3 s]$ cd  
/u/home/s/serghei
```

Tips

- to go back to previously entered commands, use the **up** and **down** arrows
- to auto-complete file names, use the **tab** key
- if you are **stuck** within a command/process/program, try **ctrl-z** to terminate it



Let's practice



mkdir jdkhfkjdsfhkjsdhfkjsdhfkjhs

cd jdkhfkjdsfhkjsdhfkjsdhfkjhs

Create a text file

1. [serghei@login3 ~]\$ vi test.txt

On-screen, you will see blank lines, each with a tilde (~) at the left, and a line at the bottom giving the name and status of the new file:

2. P "test.txt" [New File]

- 3.
- ~
 - | -- INSERT --
 - “ESC” (insert mode is gone)
 - “SHIFT” + ";" (you should see on the screen :wq)
 - “wq” (w – save file, q- quit) OR “q!” (discard changes and quit file)
 - “ENTER”

:wq

:q!

Command : ls

- to list the files in the current directory

ls

Applications	Movies	ichorCNA
Desktop	Music	libtinfow.so.5
Documents	Pictures	read.alignment.review
Downloads	Public	seaborn-data
GeneImp.sh	anaconda3	test
Google Drive	code	
Library	db_human	

Command : ls

- ls has many options
 - -l long list (displays lots of info)
 - -t sort by modification time
 - -S sort by size
 - -h list file sizes in human readable format
 - -r reverse the order
- Options can be combined: “ls -lh”

Let's practice!



```
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls  
jdkhfkjdsfhkjsdhfkjdhfkjhsdjf k test.txt
```

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls -l  
total 8  
drwxr-xr-x 2 serghei eeskin 4096 Sep 8 09:35  
jdkhfkjdsfhkjsdhfkjdhfkjhsdjf k  
-rw-r--r-- 1 serghei eeskin 80 Sep 8 09:50 test.txt
```

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls -lh  
total 8.0K  
drwxr-xr-x 2 serghei eeskin 4.0K Sep 8 09:35  
jdkhfkjdsfhkjsdhfkjdhfkjhsdjf k  
-rw-r--r-- 1 serghei eeskin 80 Sep 8 09:50 test.txt
```

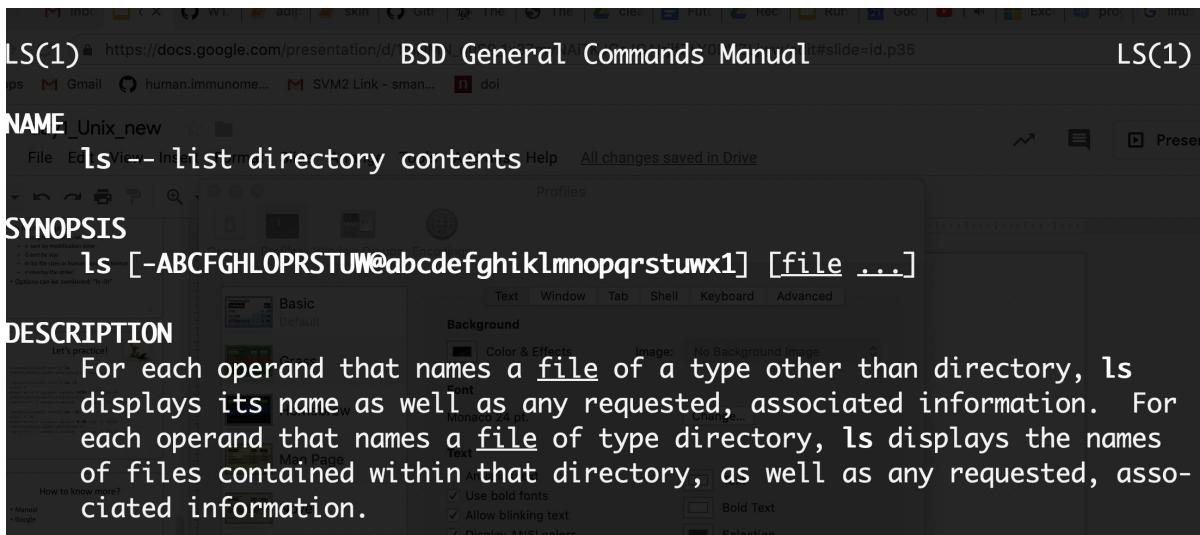
How to know more?

- Manual
- Google

Command : man

- displays manual pages

```
[serghei@login3 project]$ man ls
```



q to exit



Google

Is sort by date



Web Images Shopping Videos News More Search tools

About 33,700,000 results (0.77 seconds)

linux - How can I **sort** the output of 'ls' by last modified date ...
superuser.com/.../how-can-i-sort-the-output-of-ls-by-last-modified-date ...
Apr 9, 2009 - The ls man page describes this in more details, and lists other options ... ls -halt is for human readable , show hidden , print details , **sort** by date ...



[Linux / Unix: Sort ls Command Output By Last Modified Date ...](#)
www.cyberciti.biz/.../ls-command-sort-the-output-by-last-modified-time-...
Aug 25, 2013 - Explains how to **sort** the output of ls command by last modified date in ...
1 vivek staff 301746331 Aug 25 01:25 data-db2-sample.rar -rw-r--r--@ ...

linux - How to **sort** results from ls command by modification ...
unix.stackexchange.com/.../how-to-sort-results-from-ls-c... Stack Exchange ...
Aug 11, 2013 - ls -lrt. to get files and folders **sorted** by modification date, but this does not Sort data in descending order of first column, for equal values, use ...

7 Answers

active oldest

votes

477

ls -t

or (for reverse, most recent at bottom):

ls -tr

The ls man page describes this in more details, and lists other options.



General Syntax: *

- “*” can be used as a wildcard in Unix

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls *txt  
test.txt
```

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls t*g  
test.log
```

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls t*  
test.log  
test.txt
```

Displaying a file

- Various ways to display a file in Unix
 - cat
 - less
 - head
 - tail

Command: cat

- dumps an entire file to standard output
- good for displaying short, simple files

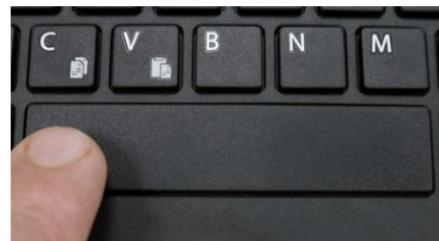
```
[serghei@login3 test]$ cat test.txt
My first txt file!
```

Command: less

- Scrolling through a file without a mouse



Up and down keys
Scroll one line



space-b
Scroll one page

press **q** to exit

Let's practice!



```
[serghei@login3 test]$ less large.txt
```

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
...
30



Try to scroll forward/back one line/page!

Command: head

- displays the top part of a file

by default it shows the first 10 lines

- **-n** option allows you to change that

Command: tail

- Same as head, but shows the last lines

Let's practice!



```
[serghei@login3 test]$ head large.txt
```

1

2

...

9

10

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ tail large.txt
```

21

22

...

30

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ tail -n 3 large.txt
```

28

29

30

File Commands

- Copying a file: **cp**



-

- Move or rename a file: **mv**



-

- Remove a file: **rm**



Copy

`cp <source> <destination>`

- to copy a file use **cp**
- to copy a directory use **cp -r**



Let's practice

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ cp test.txt test1.txt
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls
large.txt test1.txt test.log test.txt
[serghei@login3 test]$ mkdir new
[serghei@login3 test]$ cp -r new new2
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls
large.txt new new2 test1.txt test.log test.txt
[serghei@login3 test]$ cp test.txt new/
[serghei@login3 test]$ cp test.txt new/test_new.txt
[serghei@login3 test]$ cd new
[serghei@login3 new]$ ls
test_new.txt test.txt
```

Command: mv

`mv <source> <destination>`

- moves a file/directory to a different location
- renames a file/directory

```
[serghei@login3 new]$ cd ..
[serghei@login3 test]$ pwd
/u/home/s/serghei/test
[serghei@login3 test]$ mv test1.txt new/
[serghei@login3 test]$ mv test.txt test_rename.txt
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls
large.txt  new  new2  test.log  test_rename.txt
[serghei@login3 test]$ mv test.txt new/test2.txt
```



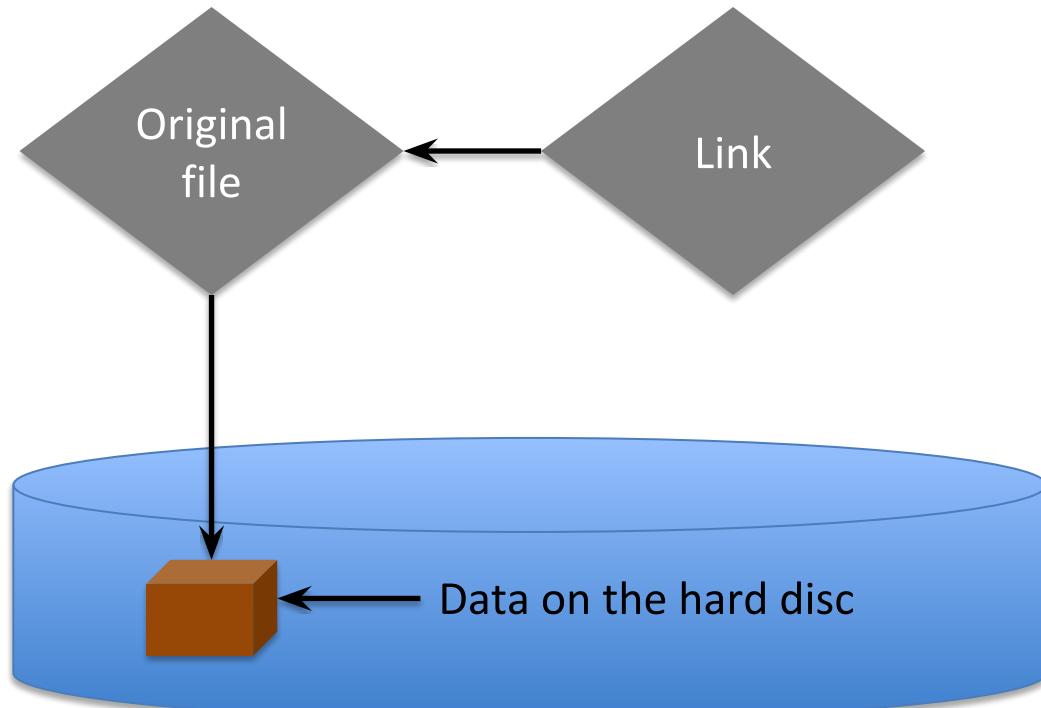
Symbolic Links

- is a special kind of file that points to another file

existing file for which you want to create the
symbolic link

name of the symbolic link

```
ln -s <ORIGINAL_FILE> <LINK_NAME>
```





Good to know

- You can perform an operation on *LINK_NAME*, just as you could with the *ORIGINAL_FILE*
- You can use normal file management commands (e.g., cp, rm) on the symbolic link.



Don't modify the original file through the link

Command: rm

- to remove a file use **rm**
- to remove a directory use **rm -r**

```
[serghei@login3 test]$ rm test.log  
[serghei@login3 test]$ rm -r new2  
[serghei@login3 test]$ ls  
large.txt  new  test_rename.txt
```



Files and directories deleted with **rm** are gone forever and cannot be recovered!!!



Good to know

- **cp/mv/rm** can work on many files at once:

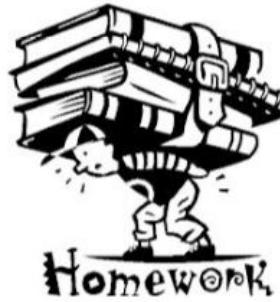
```
cp file1 file2 new/  
rm file1 file2 file27
```

- **cp/mv/rm** can work with *:

```
mv f* new/  
rm f*  
rm l*s  
rm *txt
```

Summary

Directory commandline	
pwd	display current directory
mkdir	create a new directory
cd	change current working directory
cp-r	copy a directory
File commandline	
ls	list files in the current directory
cat	display the entire file
less	display part of the file
tail	display the end of the file
head	display the head of the file
cp	copy a file
mv	move a file
rm	remove a file
file and password	
vi test.text	create a text file
passwd	change password



1. Create directory “practice” in your home directory
2. Inside directory “practice” create files p.a and p.b
3. Create a copy of file p.a(p_copy.a) and rename file p.b (new name : practice.b)
4. Delete all files ending with b