2.8.5 Directory Management Facts

Navigating within and making changes to the directory structure are tasks you will frequently perform when using a Linux system.

This lesson covers the following topics:

- Navigate a Linux directory
- Create, copy, and move, a Linux directory
- Remove a Linux directory

Navigate a Linux Directory

The following table describes basic commands you use to navigate within a Linux directory.

Command	Description	Examples
pwd	Displays the current working directory.	If a user named Fred is currently in his home directory and types **pwd** at the shell prompt, **/home/Fred** is displayed.
cd	Changes the present working directory. **cd ..** changes to the parent directory. **cd ../..** to changes two levels up in the directory. **cd /** changes to the root directory.	**cd directory1** changes to a directory named **directory1** within the current working directory. (This is a *relative* path.) **cd /home/Fred/directory1** switches to **directory1** in Fred's home directory, regardless of the current working directory. (This is an absolute path.)
ls	Displays the contents of a directory. Options include: **-a** displays all directory contents, including hidden content. **-l** displays extended information, including the owner, modified date, size, and permissions. **-R** displays the contents of a directory and all of	**ls -al** displays a long listing of all the contents in the current working directory, including hidden content. **ls -d** displays only directories within the current directory. **ls -R /etc** displays the contents of the /etc directory and all of its subdirectories.

its subdirectories.
- **-d** displays directories but not files.
- **-r** reverses the sort order.

Create, Copy, and Move a Linux Directory

The following table describes basic commands you use to manage a Linux directory:

Command	Description	Examples
mkdir	Creates a new directory. Use the **-p** option to create all directories within the specified path when that path does not already exist.	**mkdir work_files** creates a directory named *work_files* in the current working directory. **mkdir /home/Fred/work_files** creates a directory named *work_files* within the specified path.
cp	Copies directories. Copying leaves the source contents (directories and files) intact. Use the **-r** or -R option to recursively copy subdirectories and files within the directory.	**cp -r /temp /home/user** copies the entire **/temp** directory (with all of its files, subdirectories, and files in the subdirectories) to the **/home/user** directory.
mv	Moves or renames directories (and files). Moving directories removes the source directory and places it in the destination. Options include: **-f** overwrites a directory that already exist in the destination directory without prompting. **-i** prompts before overwriting a directory in the destination directory. **-n** never overwrites files in the destination directory.	**mv /temp/station ~/doc/** moves **station** from the **/temp** directory to the **~/doc** directory. **mv /current /previous** renames the directory **current** to **previous**

Remove a Linux Directory

The following table describes basic commands you use to remove a Linux directory:

Command	Description	Examples
rmdir	Deletes an empty directory.	• **rmdir ~/Fred/work_files** deletes the **work_files** directory if it is empty.
rm	Removes the directory and file information from the file system, which makes the directories and files inaccessible. Options include: • **-i** prompts before removing. • **-r** removes directories, subdirectories, and files within them. • **-f** eliminates prompt for read-only files and avoids an exit code error if a file doesn't exist.	• **rm -rf /home/user/temp** deletes the temp directory with all its subdirectories and files without prompting. • **rm -r /home/user/*** deletes all directories and files in the **/home/user** directory.