

Shell vs Terminal

The Shell

- Before starting to learn about the Linux command line, we have to know some terminology and facts.
- The `shell` is the command line interpreter, meaning that it takes the commands that you enter and sends them to the operating system to perform (execute).
- And so to make things clear, The `shell` is what actually handles the commands.
- The `shell` is the default interface to Linux

The Terminal

- On the other hand, The **Terminal** is just a graphical interface to the shell. In other words, We access the shell through our terminal in a GUI (Graphical User Interface) environment.
- Historically, The **Terminal** was a physical device that connects to a computer, usually over serial cable or modem. Like the picture below



- But nowadays, when someone says a Terminal, he really means a **Terminal emulator**. The word emulator here means imitate. That's to say that it's a software (Program) that imitates the physical device that was once called a Terminal.
- People use the two terms (**Terminal** and **Terminal emulator**) interchangeably, so don't get confused. They mean the same thing nowadays.

Access the Terminal

- There are many different linux distributions out there. And it's usually an easy task to open the terminal.
- We are going to see how to open the terminal in three different Linux distributions (**Ubuntu**, **Fedora**, **openSUSE**) and three different Environments (**Unity**, **Gnome**, **Kde**)

Ubuntu (Unity)

- On ubuntu, You can press the shortcut

`Ctrl + Alt + t` to open the terminal

- Or you can press the Dash icon (ubuntu logo) that is present on the top left corner of your screen. Then type Terminal and you will find it as shown in the picture below

terminal



Applications



Terminal



UXTerm



XTerm



Fedora (Gnome)

- Move your mouse on the upper left most part of the screen towards the "Activities"
- Click on it
- Type Terminal and select it

OpenSUSE (Kde)

- Open the Main menu (The bottom left icon) Which is like that start menu in windows.
- You should see it right away.
- If you didn't see it, then type terminal on the search field and it will pop up.
- It may appear as konsole. Click it anyways.