

Command Prompt/Terminal Cheat-Sheet

Opening the Command Prompt/Terminal:

Windows: To open the command prompt on Windows 10, press `Win + x` to bring up the power-users menu. Select the `Command Prompt` option from the menu. (There may be 2 options: `Command Prompt` and `Command Prompt (Admin)` – I recommend just choosing the regular `Command Prompt` option). You can also just type “command prompt” or “cmd” in the windows search bar.

Mac: On Mac, bring up the spotlight search menu by pressing `cmd + space`, and search for “terminal” – it should be the first option.

Linux: On most Linux systems, you can bring up a new terminal by using `ctrl + alt + t`. If not, search for “terminal” in your applications menu.

In all cases, I recommend that you create a shortcut or favorite the terminal. We will use it a lot in this class.

Directories, files, and paths:

Concept:	Description:
directory (dir)	also called a “folder” (think: “Documents”, “Downloads”, etc.)
directory contents	all the files and other directories inside a directory
working directory	the directory that you are currently located in
home	when you open a new cmd/terminal, you start in your “home” dir
relative path	path from your working dir to a file (e.g., <code>./Documents/cheatsheet.pdf</code>) Note: if file is in your current dir, rel path is just <code>filename</code>
absolute path	path from the root dir to a specific file (e.g., <code>/home/tyler/Documents/cheatsheet.pdf</code>)

Shell Commands Cheat-Sheet:

Command:	Windows	Mac/Linux
list contents of current directory	<code>dir</code>	<code>ls</code>
go into a subdirectory	<code>cd [dir name]</code>	<code>cd [dir name]</code>
go up one lvl in directory tree	<code>cd ..</code>	<code>cd ..</code>
go to home dir	<code>cd %HOMEPATH%</code>	<code>cd</code>
print current dir	<code>cd</code>	<code>pwd</code>
copy file1 → file2	<code>copy file1 file2</code>	<code>cp file1 file2</code>
move (or rename) file1 → file2	<code>move file1 file2</code>	<code>mv file1 file2</code>
create/edit txt files	<code>notepad [filename]</code>	<code>open -a [filename] (mac)</code> <code>gedit [filename] (ubuntu)</code>
create new directory	<code>mkdir [dirname]</code>	<code>mkdir [dirname]</code>
run installed program named prog	<code>prog</code>	<code>prog</code>
run Python (interactive mode)	<code>py</code>	<code>python3</code>
use Python to run [filename]	<code>py [filename]</code>	<code>python3 [filename]</code>
Danger!!!	(irreversible)	
delete file	<code>del [filename]</code>	<code>rm [filename]</code>
delete a directory (and contents)	<code>rmdir [dirname]</code>	<code>rm -r [dirname]</code>