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Homework 1 – GUI and Command Line folders and files

The Graphical User Interface (GUI) and Command Line in its various iterations, are both ways of navigating, completing tasks, and running programs on your computer. You can navigate your computer, see and manipulate files and folders in both ways. The GUI will represent things in a graphical format, which is the way we navigate computers usually. It provides icons for all files and folders that are easily understood, and menus and keyboard shortcuts for manipulating them. The Command Line is something that not all computer users will use but can be very powerful. Much like the GUI you can navigate your computer, manipulate files and folders, and run programs. Unlike the GUI, all of this is represented only by text, with no mouse input needed. This can sometimes be a more complicated looking way of working but can make some tasks much easier and do some powerful things. You can easily use programs like vagrant within the command line to create and destroy virtual machines, you can also easily use SSH to work remotely on servers and other hardware.

The command line came first, but with the GUI computers started to become much friendlier to most people. Each technique has its purposes, and it is very useful to become familiar with each.