Operating Systems ClassWork 3 – Ubuntu User Interface Page 1 of 3

Week \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Using Command Prompt Interface (Terminal) and GUI from Ubuntu OS**

**This lab will involve practicing some commands in Terminal interface provided by Ubuntu OS (Unix type OS) as well as playing a little bit with the GUI interface and solving some tasks.**

**We will create a simple structure of files and folders that will be used for practicing the commands.**

**Getting Started (How to login on NCI Ubuntu remote machine)**

Access and login on the remote Ubuntu machine following the instructions provided in “*How to login on the NCI Ubuntu PC*” document available on the Operating Systems Moodle page.

**A. Using GUI Interface**

***The Ubuntu Panel***

**1.** The menu bar at the top of the window that runs Ubuntu is called the Panel. In this panel you already have shortcuts to different applications.

***File manager interface***

Click on the second icon named **Places**, from the Panel and select the option **Home** **Folder** from the sub-menu. A new window similar to the Windows MS Operating System’s file Explorer is opended.

In your Home Folder window, create a new folder (directory) called ***osclass*** (Right mouse -> New Folder). Use the text editor application available under Unbuntu OS to create a new file and add some text in the file.

The Text Editor application can be opened by clicking on the top icon (**Applications**) from the Panel, and then select **Accessories** and **gedit** application.

Add some lines of text in your opend text file and save the file in *osclass* folder as ***fileone.txt***. Once the file was saved you can close the window that shows the content of the file.

Repeat the previous steps to create another file called ***filetwo.txt*** and save it in the same location.

**2.** Go into the Home Folder window and double click on *fileone.txt* What happens? **Can you edit the file in the new window opened?**

***Customising your desktop***

**3.** Change the theme of the background on your desktop to one you like. **How did you do it? Hint: How would you do it in Windows?**

**B. Using the shell interface (command line interface)**

Ubuntu provides you with the option to run command lines using the shell.

When you login, your current working directory is your home directory (folder). Your home directory has the same name as your username, for example, **x13117505**, and it is where your personal files and subdirectories are saved

**Rules for using the Shell command:**

* **EVERYTHING in UNIX is in lowercase** unless otherwise specified.
* **There is ALWAYS a space after a command name**. In these notes I have tried to make the space obvious.
* **Most commands take options/parameters that alter their behaviour**. These options are single letter arguments preceded by hyphens (e.g. ls -l gives a ‘long listing of directory information)
* **Most commands take arguments** (i.e. names of things for the command to do the work on – e.g. *ls temp* will list the contents of the *temp* directory). Most commands will have default behaviour in the absence of these arguments.
* **Use the manual pages in Ubuntu to get help** for any of the shell commands. The command **man** is used to access the manual. E.g. the following command, *man ls* will display help/documentation for the ls command.

***How to open a Terminal (window) for running commands***

From the Panel menu available at the top of Ubuntu windows, click on **Applications** option and then select **System Tools** and then **MATE Terminal**. A new window for the Terminal application is opened. The prompter will indicate your home directory.

***Practicing some commands in the Shell interface.***

**4.** Type in the **ls** command and then press enter in the Terminal window. This will list the content of your home directory. **What is in your home directory? What was listed on the screen?**

**5.** Use the **mkdir** command to make a new directory (folder) called *unixstuff* in your home folder by typing  **mkdir unixstuff**

**6.** **What is the command you have to type in in order to see if the directory you have just created exists? Try it.**

The **cd** (it stands for change directory) command is used to move within the files and folders structure on the computer

**7.** To change your current location into the directory you have just made type in

**cd unixstuff** and press enter

**8. How do you check that you are currently located in the unixstuff directory?**

**9.** To move one level up in the folders structure you have created use the command

**cd ..**  Try it. You current working folder should be now the home folder.

**10. From your home folder, move into *osclass* subfolder using *cd* command.**

**11.** You want to copy using the command **“cp”,** the file *fileone.txt* located under the *osclass* directory (created in step 2) into a new file called *filethree.txt* .

Practice and see what happens when you use the command

**cp fileone.txt filethree.txt**

**12. Practice the *echo* command to see what it does. Hint: read the help manual.**

**Summary of the Unix commands we have practiced today**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| man | Display the manual for the unix commands |
| ls | List the contents of the current working directory (folder) |
| cd | Changes location of the current working directory |
| cp | Copy one (or more) file(s) into another file, or into an alternate folder |
| echo | Displays the introduced message back on the screen |
| mkdir | Command to create a new directory |