**Aliases and Functions**

Aliases and functions are two related features that let you run more complicated commands with fewer keystrokes.

An [*alias*](gloss01.html#gloss_10) replaces part of your command with something else. If you wanted to save a few keystrokes on **ls -l** you could make an alias: **alias ll=”ls –l”**.

Any time you type **ll** by itself it will be expanded to **ls -l**. For example **ll**, **ll -h**, or **ll \*.doc** are all good uses, giving you a long listing, a long listing with human readable sizes, and a long listing of all the **.doc** files, respectively. Typing **all** will not trigger the alias because aliases only operate on distinct words.

Aliases take priority over searching the path so you can make sure you always include options when running a command by redefining the command: **alias rm=”rm –I”**.

This redefines the **rm** command to always run **rm -i**, which prompts the user to delete instead of doing it silently.

You can defeat the alias temporarily by either fully qualifying your command (**/bin/rm**) or escaping it (**\rm**). It’s assumed that if you’re smart enough to override an alias, you’re smart enough to know the consequences of what you’re doing!