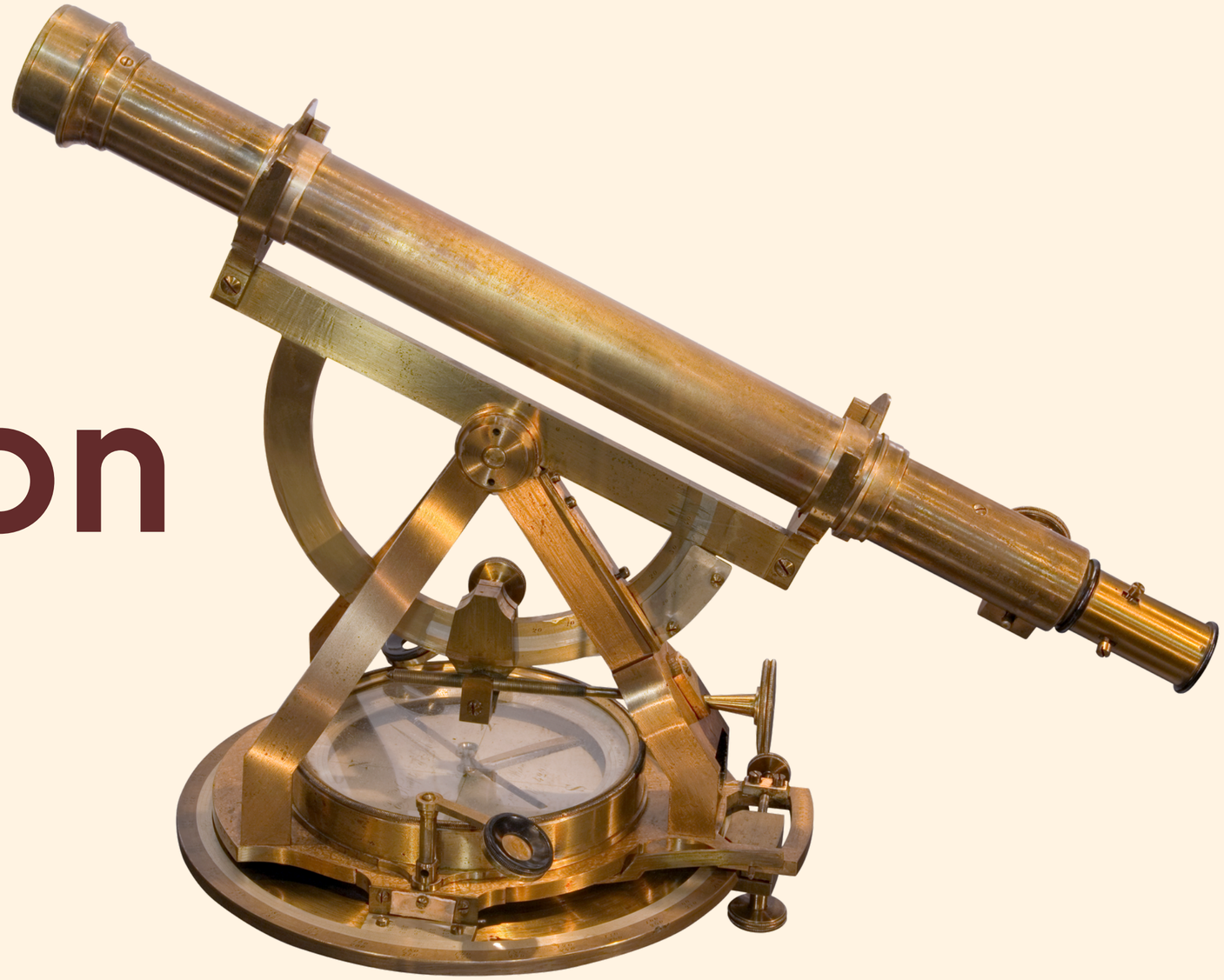
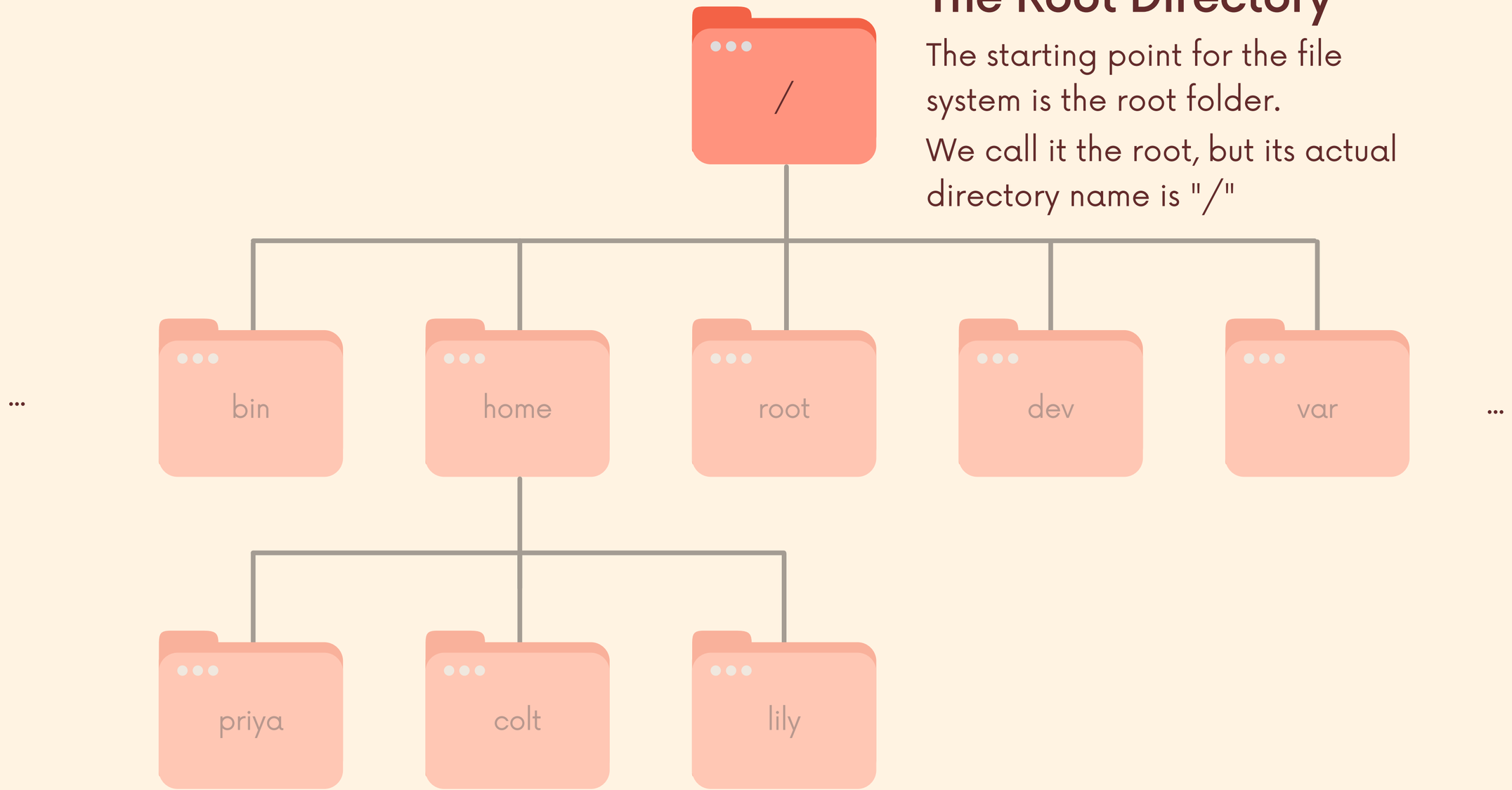
Navigation



The Root Directory

The starting point for the file system is the root folder.

We call it the root, but its actual directory name is "/"



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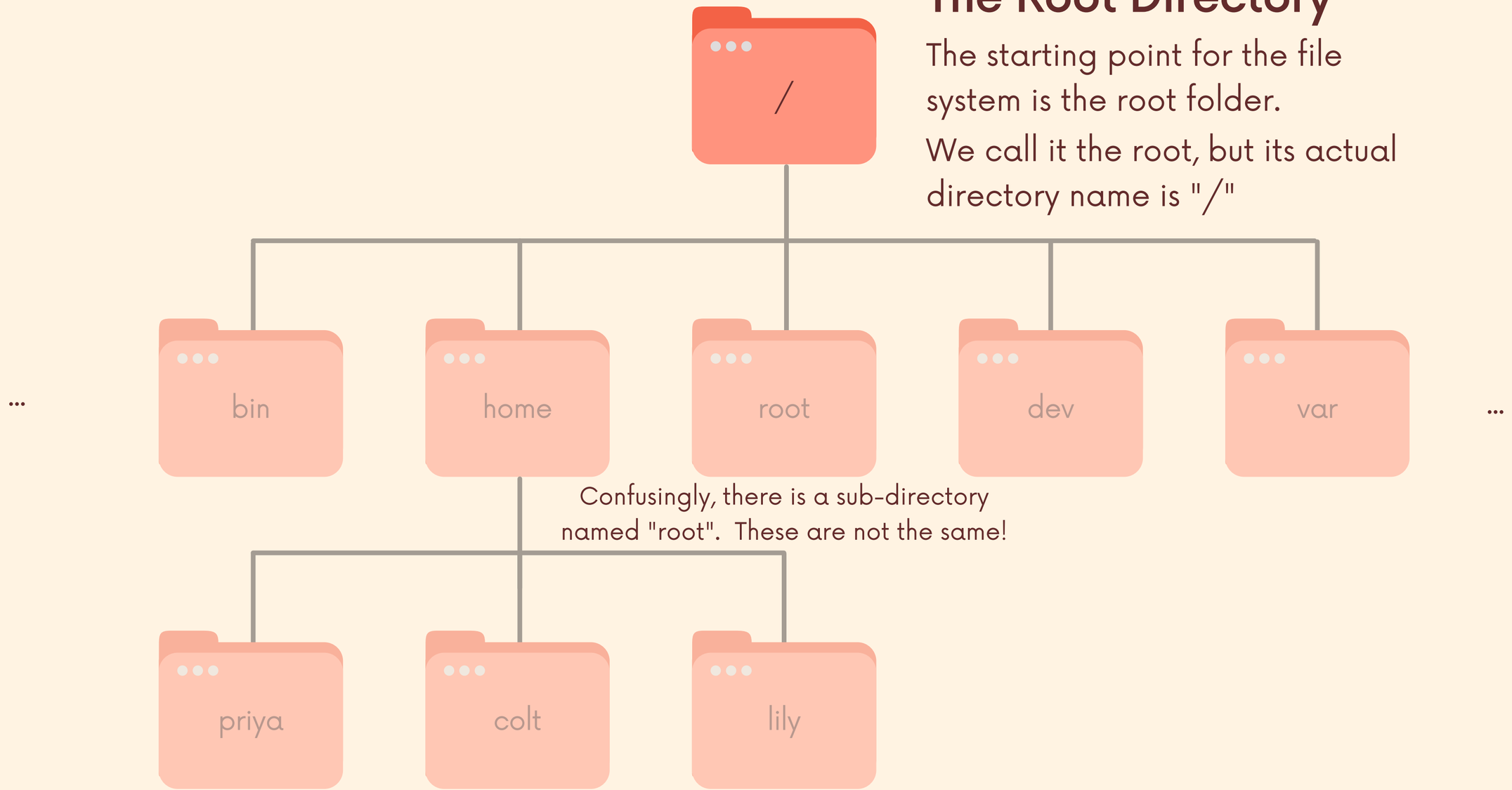
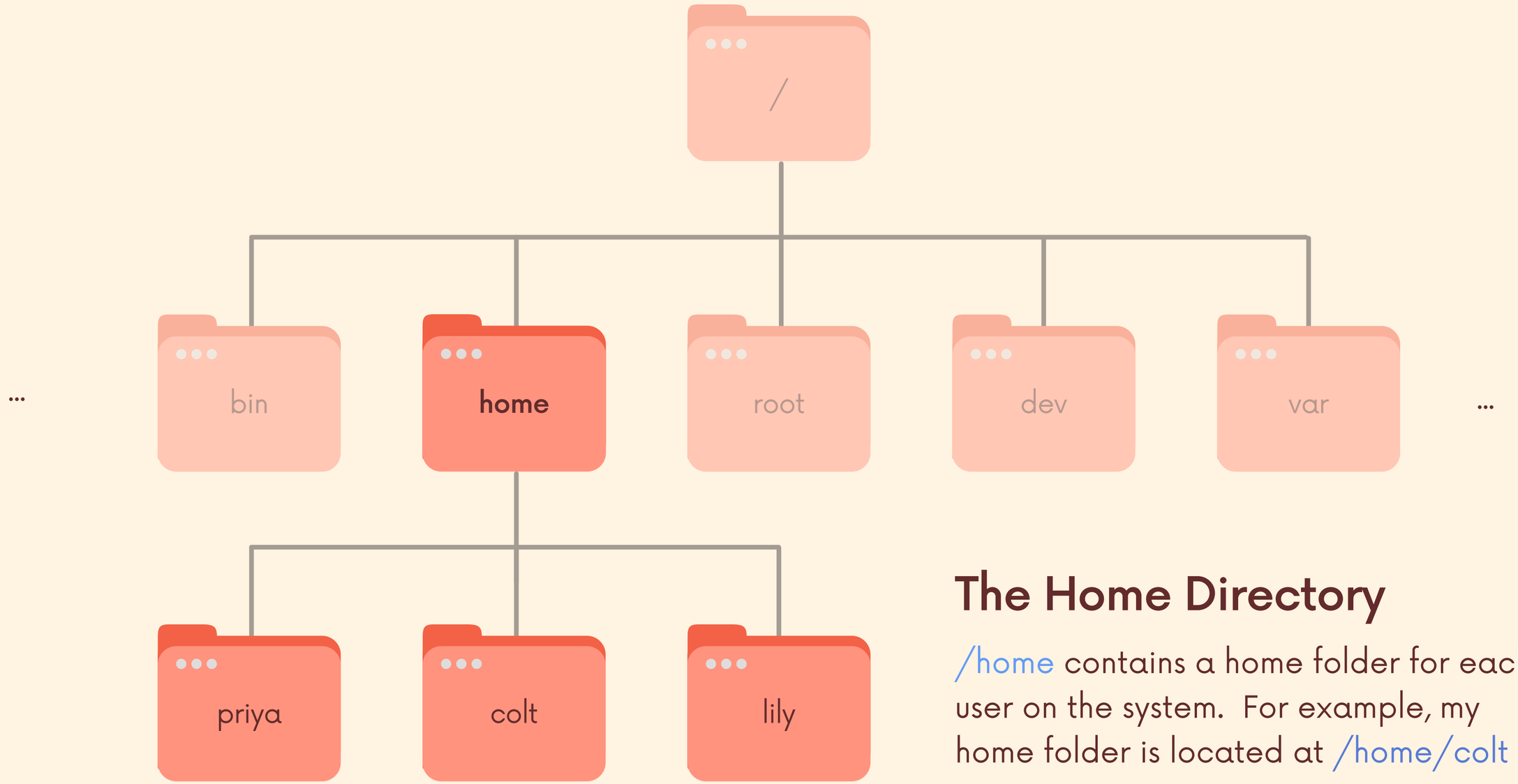




The Home Directory

/home contains a home folder for each user on the system. For example, my home folder is located at /home/colt

/ - root

~ - home

pwd

The **print working directory** command is super simple but very useful. Think of it as a "where am I" command.

It will print the path of your current working directory, starting from the root /

For example, if I were on my desktop and I ran pwd, I would see /home/colt/Desktop

"where am I?"

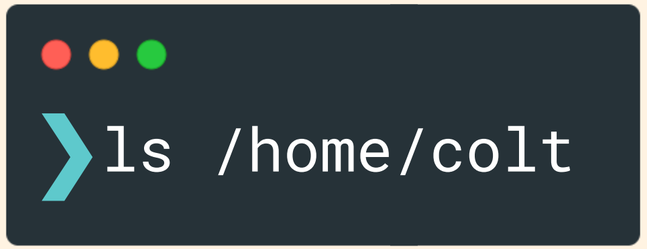
ls

The list command will list the contents of a directory.

When used with no options or arguments, it prints a list of the files and folders located in the current directory.

We can also list the contents of a specific directory using **ls path**. For example **ls /bin** will print the contents of the /bin directory

list contents of current directory



list contents of /home/colt

ls options

The ls command accepts a ton of options.
Two of the more commonly used are -l and -a

-l (lowercase L) prints in long listing format. It shows far more information about each file/folder.

the -a option will also list any hidden files that begin with . These are normally not listed.

We can combine options! This example prints detailed information for all files, including hidden files.

cd

The **cd** command is used to change the current working directory, "moving" into another directory.

For example... cd chickens would change into the chickens directory (assuming it exists)

cd /home/colt would take me my home directory

backing up

In Unix-like operating systems, a single dot (.) is used to represent the current directory. Two dots (..) represent the parent directory.

So we can use **cd ..** to move up one level, from our current directory into the parent directory.

"back up" one level into the parent folder

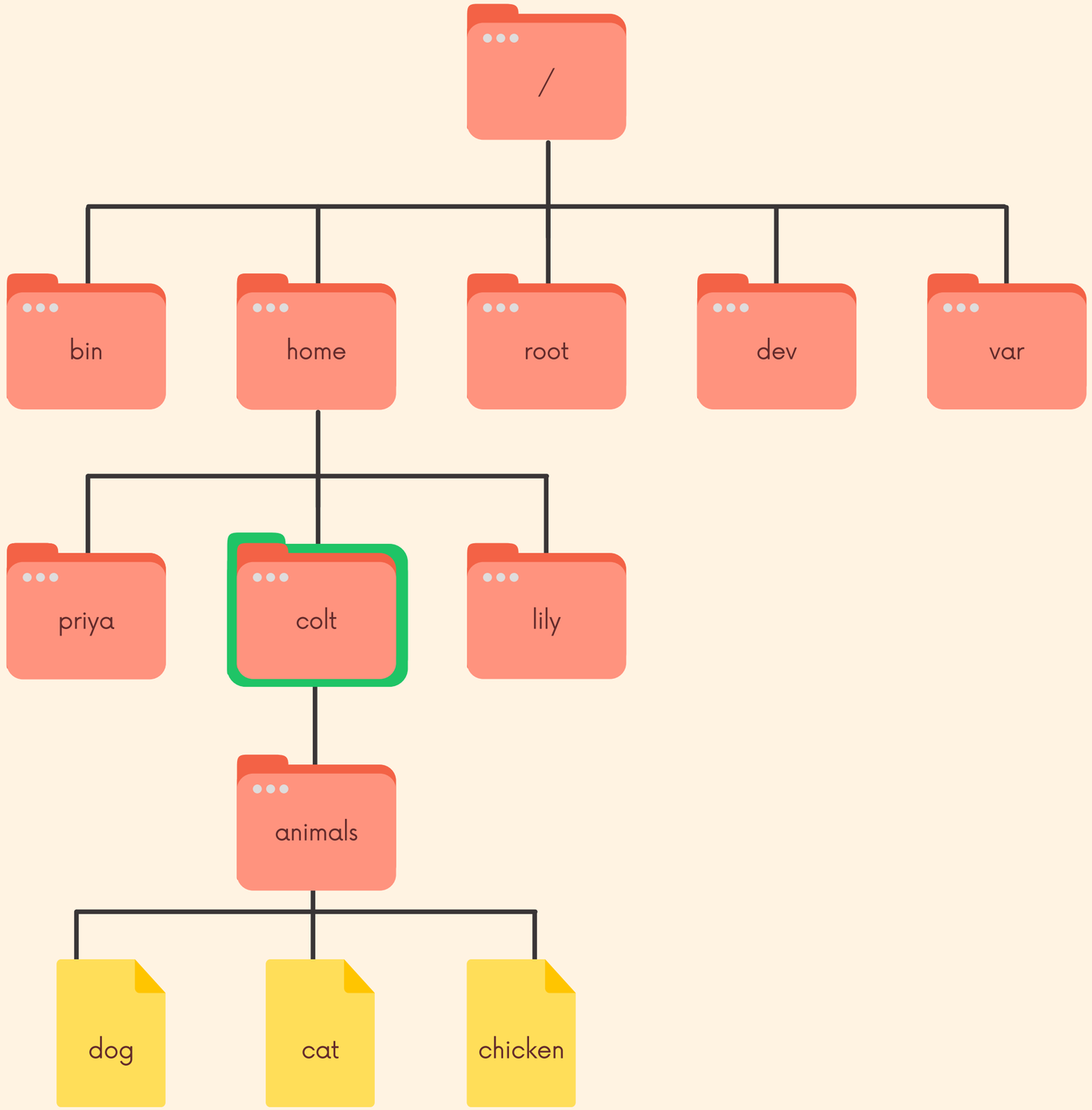
Relative Paths

When providing paths to commands like cd or ls, we have the option of using relative or absolute paths.

Relative paths are paths that specify a directory/file relative to the current directory.

For example, if our current directory is **/home/colt** and we want to cd into animals, we can simply run **cd animals**.

However, **cd animals** does NOT work if we are located in another directory like **/bin**. The relative path from /bin is ../home/colt/animals



Absolute Paths

Absolute paths are paths that start from the root directory (they start with a /)

The absolute path to the animals directory is /home/colt/animals. We can use absolute paths to specify a location no matter our current location.

For example, from the /bin directory I could use **cd /home/colt/animals** to change into the animals directory.