

Hands-on Lab: Introducing Linux Terminal



Objectives

In this lab, you will:

- Interact with the Linux Terminal
- Navigate directories on a Linux filesystem and explore their contents
- Install and update packages
- Create and edit files using `nano`
- Run shell commands and applications from the terminal

About Skills Network Cloud IDE

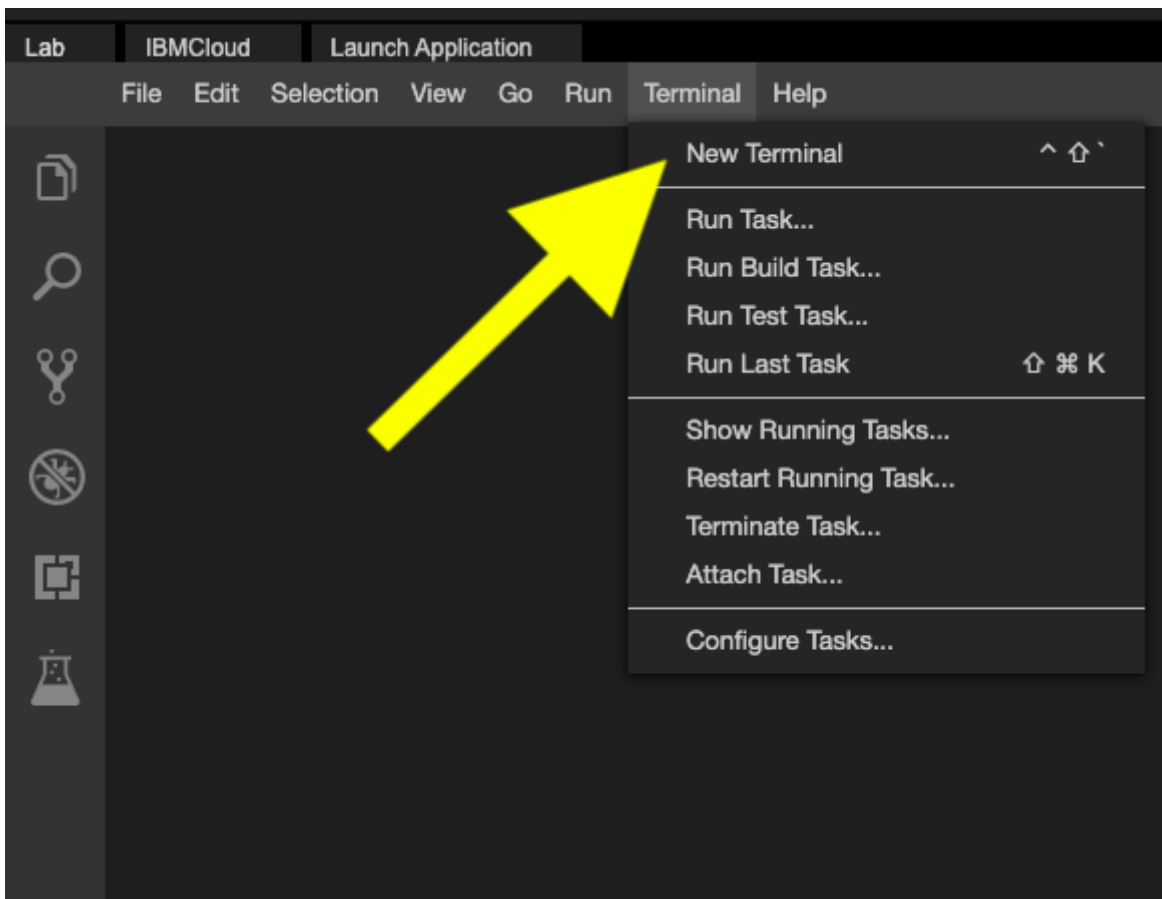
Skills Network Cloud IDE (based on Theia and Docker) provides an environment for hands-on labs for course and project-related labs. Theia is an open-source Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that can be run on the desktop or on the cloud. To complete this lab, you will be using the Cloud IDE based on Theia.

Important Notice About This Lab Environment

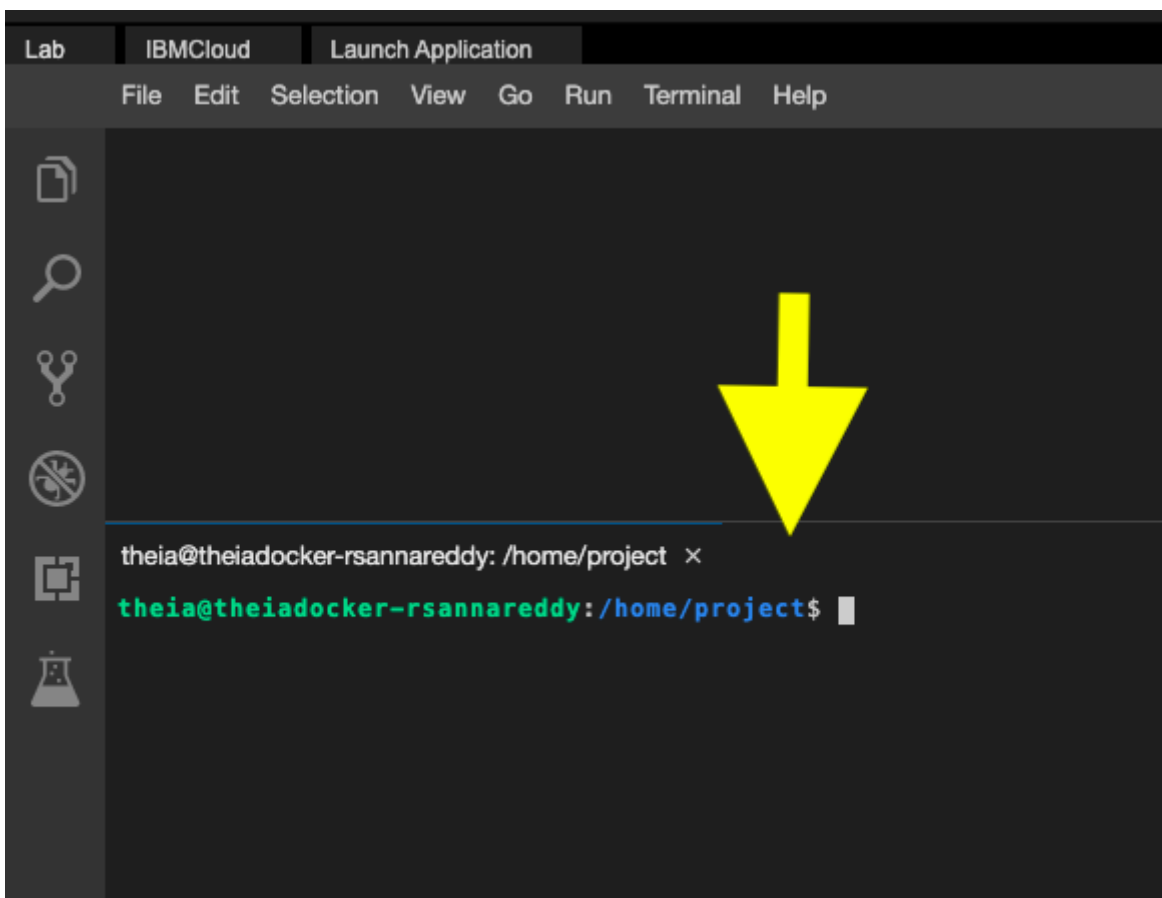
Please be aware that sessions for this lab environment are not persisted. Thus, every time you connect to this lab, a new environment is created for you and any data or files you may have saved in a previous session will be lost. To avoid losing your data, plan to complete these labs in a single session.

Setup

Open a new terminal by clicking the menu bar and selecting **Terminal -> New Terminal**.



This will open a new terminal at the bottom of the screen.



You can run the commands provided in the following exercises in your newly opened terminal. You can copy the code to your clipboard by clicking the **Copy** button on the bottom right of each codeblock, and then pasting it on the command line.

Exercise 1 - Navigating Directories

cd

In this exercise, you will explore directories on the cloud IDE Linux system using the `cd` command.

Recall the special paths:

Symbol	Stands for
<code>~</code>	Home directory
<code>/</code>	Root directory
<code>.</code>	Current directory
<code>..</code>	Parent directory

1.1. Changing working directory to home directory

- ```
1. 1
1. cd ~
```

Copied!

Copy the command above into the terminal and press **Enter** to run the command.

This will change your current working directory to the home directory `~`.

Note: (In our lab environment, your user's home directory is `~ = /home/theia`).

## 1.2. Changing working directory to parent

- ```
1. 1
1. cd ..
```

Copied!

This will change your current working directory to the parent of the current working directory.

If your working directory was `/home/theia`, then it will become `/home`.

1.3. Changing working directory to root directory

- ```
1. 1
1. cd /
```

Copied!

This will change your current working directory to the root directory `/`.

## 1.4 Changing working directory to child directory

- ```
1. 1
1. cd bin
```

Copied!

This will change your current working directory to the `/bin` directory.

The `bin` directory is called a *child* of the root `/` directory because it's inside of it.

1.5. Changing working directory back to home directory

```
1. 1
1. cd ../home/theia
```

Copied!

This will change your current working directory back to your home directory.

Of course, a simpler way to do this would be:

```
1. 1
1. cd ~
```

Copied!

1.6. Changing working directory back to project directory

```
1. 1
1. cd ../project
```

Copied!

This will change your current working directory back to your project directory.

The project directory is a special empty directory we provide for your work.

Exercise 2 - Browsing Directories

ls

In this exercise, you will explore browsing the content of directories using the `ls` command.

`ls` is a special command that the shell knows by default. You will learn about many more of these commands in the future.

2.1. Viewing files in the current working directory

```
1. 1
1. ls
```

Copied!

Typing `ls` by itself will show all files inside the current working directory.

Because you're in the `/home/project` directory (which is empty), `ls` will return nothing.

2.2. Viewing files in any directory

If you know the path to a directory, you can view its contents by typing the following:

```
ls [PATH TO DIRECTORY]
```

For example:

```
1. 1
```

```
1. ls /
```

Copied!

This will show the contents of the root directory.

Recall some of the directories you've learned in prior video(s):

Directory	Contains
/bin	System libraries
/sbin	Binaries that require root privileges
/usr	User programs and data
/home	Home directory
/media	Removable media device directories

```
1. 1
```

```
1. ls /bin
```

Copied!

This will show the contents of the /bin directory.

You might notice one of these files is called "ls". That's because the ls command runs using the file /bin/ls.

Exercise 3 - Updating and Installing Packages

In your lab environment, we provide access to the `sudo` command. Be careful not to break your system!

3.1 Getting latest packages information

```
1. 1
```

```
1. sudo apt update
```

Copied!

This will fetch the latest package information from trusted sources.

apt update doesn't actually update your packages; instead, it finds if any packages *can* be upgraded.

3.2. Updating nano

nano is a simple command that enables you to use the terminal as a text editor.

To get the latest supported version of nano, type the following:

1. 1
1. sudo apt upgrade nano

Copied!

You may be prompted: "Do you want to continue? [Y/n]"

Type "n" and press **Enter** to continue. Updating nano will take time and will not affect this lab.

Note: The capital Y in Y/n means it's the default - if you press enter without typing anything it uses the default y.

3.3. Installing vim

Another popular text-editing program is vim.

Because vim doesn't come with your system, you will need to install it:

1. 1
1. sudo apt install vim

Copied!

As with upgrading, you may be prompted: "Do you want to continue? [Y/n]"

In this case, type "y" and press Enter to continue. You will be using vim in a later exercise.

Exercise 4 - Creating and Editing Files

For the purpose of this lab, you will be use nano to create and edit files.

This is because nano is known as simple to use and easy to master.

On the other hand, vim can be harder to learn - though it has many more features.

4.1 Navigating to the project directory

We provide a clean project directory at /home/project. Ensure you're working in this folder using:

1. 1
1. cd /home/project

Copied!

Try auto-completing the path by typing cd /home/pr and pressing **TAB**.

If you type `ls` here, you should see no files.

4.2 Creating and editing a file

1. 1

```
1. nano myprogram.py
```

Copied!

This will create a `.py` (Python) file called `myprogram.py` and enable you to begin editing it using the `nano` text editor.

Type the following to the file:

```
1. 1
1. print('Learning Linux is fun!')
```

Copied!

Now:

```
1. Press "CTRL-X" to exit
```

```
2. You will be prompted with:
```

```
1. 1
2. 2
3. 3

1. Save modified buffer (ANSWERING "No" WILL DESTROY CHANGES) ?
2. Y Yes
3. N No          ^C Cancel
```

Copied!

Press `"y"` to save.

```
3. Press "ENTER" to confirm the file name.
```

You should now be back at the terminal's command prompt.

4.3 Running the Python file you made

```
1. 1
1. ls
```

Copied!

You should now see that the file `myprogram.py` was created in your current working directory.

You can now run your Python file using:

```
1. 1
1. python3 myprogram.py
```

Copied!

Try auto-completing the command by typing `python3 my` and pressing **TAB**.

You should see the following output:

```
Learning Linux is fun!
```

Otherwise, you may have had a typo in your program.

Practice Exercises

1. Problem:

Display the content of the /usr directory.

► [Click here for Solution](#)

2. Problem:

Navigate to the /media directory.

► [Click here for Solution](#)

3. Problem:

Navigate to the /home/project directory and display its contents.

► [Click here for Solution](#)

4. Problem:

Using nano, edit myprogram.py to add a new line containing "print('My name is ...')"(replace ... with your name)

Hint: To start, you can press the Up arrow until you get nano myprogram.py from your command history.

► [Click here for Solution](#)

5. Problem:

Using vi, create a file called "done.py" that prints "I am done with the lab!"

► [Click here for Hint](#)

► [Click here for Solution](#)

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Change Log

Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Version	Changed By	Change Description
2022-04-05	1.0	Sam Prokopchuk	Add first iteration of lab
2023-04-28	2.0	Steve Hord	QA pass with edits

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