

Linux command quick reference

Starting common programs

- To start a terminal window:
 - Right-click with the mouse anywhere on the screen, and select "New terminal" from the menu.
 - Click on the icon in the taskbar on the bottom of the screen that looks like a black screen.
 - Click on the "Main menu" button (the "hat" icon) on the taskbar, go to "System Tools" and click on "Terminal".
- To start GEdit:
 - Type `gedit` in any terminal window
- `cat foo` : Type out the contents of foo
- `su foo`: Switch user to foo (su root and su – are the same)

Directories

- `pwd` : prints the name of the directory you are currently in
- `ls` : lists the contents of the current directory
 - `ls -l` gives a long listing, with file sizes and permissions
 - `ls -a` lists all files, including files starting with `.`
 - `ls -Q` puts quotes around filenames
- `cd foo` : change to the directory named "foo"
- `mkdir foo` : create a new directory named "foo"
- `rmdir foo` : remove the directory named "foo". **NOTE: this permanently removes the directory, so use with care!**
- `grep foo`: Search for all instances of foo. Commonly used after a `|` to redirect the output to the string search
- `whoami`: Tells you who you are logged in as in that window

Shortcuts:

- `cd` by itself returns you to your home directory
- `cd ..` changes to the directory directly above the current one (the "parent" directory)

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Files

- **more *foo.txt*** : displays the contents of the file named "foo.txt"
- **rm *foo.txt*** : removes the file named "foo.txt". **NOTE: this permanently removes the file, so use with care!**
- **cp *foo.txt foo1.txt*** : copies the file "foo.txt" into the file "foo1.txt". Preserves the original file.
- **mv *foo.txt foo2.txt*** : moves the file "foo.txt" into the file "foo2.txt". Removes the original file.
- **chmod 777 *foo.txt***: Changes the permissions on the file "foo.txt" (First number is Owner, second number is Group, last digit is Everyone)
- **find / -name "foo" -print** : look in all directories, find all instances of foo and print them to the screen
- **> *foo.txt*** : puts the output into a file named foo.txt

Network Processes and Configuration

- **netstat -nao**: displays processes, protocols and open ports
- **ps -aux**: displays processes, protocols and open ports
- **/sbin/ifconfig**: displays IP and MAC addresses
- **ping *IP address***: sends a ping to the address to see if it responds

Getting help

- **man *foo*** : displays a help ("manual" page) for the command "foo", if one exists.