

Basic UNIX Commands

Command	Description and Example
<code>man</code>	Help for a specific UNIX command. Hit the spacebar to see more of the help page and <code>q</code> to quit the help page, e.g., <code>man yppasswd</code>
<code>pwd</code>	Prints the name of the current working directory.
<code>ls</code>	Prints the list of the files and directories in the present working directory. Use command <code>ls -al</code> to see every file (even hidden files) in a directory
<code>cd</code>	Changes directory to the specified directory, e.g., <code>cd mydirectory</code> In order to go up one directory level, type <code>cd ..</code> In order to go to the top (home) directory, type <code>cd</code>
<code>mkdir</code>	Creates a directory in the current directory, e.g., <code>mkdir mynewdirectory</code>
<code>cp</code>	Copies a file (or group of files) to another file (or group of files), e.g., <code>cp originalfile newfile</code> If the new file is in another directory (that's already been created), type <code>cp originalfile otherdirectory/newfile</code> To move all the files in a directory to another one, type: <code>cp * otherdirectory/.</code>
<code>mcopy</code>	UNIX to MS-Dos copy, useful for backing up files to a floppy, e.g., to copy all the files in a directory to a: drive, type <code>mcopy * a:</code>
<code>rm</code>	Used to erase a file, e.g., <code>rm unwantedfile</code>
<code>rmdir</code>	Used to remove an empty directory, that is, you must erase all the files in the directory before it can be removed, e.g., <code>rmdir unwanteddirectory</code>
<code>mv</code>	Renames a file, e.g., <code>mv oldfilename newfilename</code> Or moves a file to another directory, e.g., <code>mv file otherdirectory/.</code>
<code>who</code>	Shows who is currently logged on to the computer.
<code>clear</code>	Clears the screen
<code>yppasswd</code>	Used to change your login password
<code>ps</code>	Shows the processes (programs) that a user is using and the associated PID numbers, e.g., for the user <code>pfurth</code> , type <code>ps -u pfurth</code>
<code>kill</code>	Used to terminate a process that you can't exit in a "normal" way, e.g., to terminate process ID 23270, type <code>kill 23270</code>
	Command below removes lock files, in case you are kicked out of your session: <code>find . -name "*.cdslck" -exec rm -f {} \;</code>
<code>ssh</code>	For logging securely onto another machine, e.g., <code>ssh othermachine</code> Type <code>exit</code> to log out from the other machine.
<code>ftp</code>	A program for transferring files from one UNIX machine to another. Type <code>quit</code> to exit from ftp.
<code>emacs</code>	Graphical text editor. This is a program common to many UNIX environments.
<code>nano</code>	Text editor that can be used with easily with <code>ssh</code> . It's not graphical.