

Linux Commands

(Lab-1)

All commands have the following syntax.

Command [options] [arguments]

- All the commands are case-sensitive.
- Each item is separated by space.
- Options modify the command's behavior.
- Arguments are filenames or other information needed by the command
- Separate commands with semicolon (;)
- To interrupt a command type **<ctrl -c>**

Detail of Commands

Date Time

\$ date

Purpose: Prints the system date and time.

Calendar

\$ cal

Purpose: Prints an ASCII calendar of the current month.

Current Working Directory

\$pwd

Purpose: Displays the absolute path to the current working directory.

Changing Directories

\$ cd

Purpose: Changes directories.

\$ cd /home /uet / cs

Purpose: To an absolute path.

\$ cd project /docs

Purpose: To a relative path.

\$ cd ..

\$ cd ~

Purpose: To a directory one level up.

\$ cd

Purpose: to your home directory.

\$ cd -

Purpose: To your previous working directory.

Listing Directory Contents

\$ ls [options] [files_or_directories]

Purpose: Lists the contents of the current directory or a specified directory.

\$ ls

Purpose: Without arguments lists the files and directories names in the current directory.

\$ ls /

Purpose: Lists the contents of the directory given as an argument.

\$ ls -a /home /student

Purpose: Includes so-called “hidden” files and directories whose names begin with a dot

(.).

\$ ls -all

\$ ls -l /usr

Purpose: For a more detailed “long” listing:

Note:

The **ls** command has many other options. And all options can be used in combination with other **ls** options.

Copying files and directories:

\$ cp file destination

Purpose: Copy files and directories. More than one file may be copied at a time if the destination is a directory.

Note:

If the destination exists and is a directory, the copy is placed there with the same name.

If the destination exists and is a file, the copy overwrites the destination file.

Moving files and directories:

\$ mv file destination

Purpose: Move files and directories from one place to another. More than one file may be moved at a time if the destination is a directory.

Removing and creating files

\$ rm filename

Purpose: Remove files

\$ mkdir dirname

Purpose: Create a new directory with the given name.

\$ rmdir dirname

Purpose: Remove an empty directory.

Viewing an Entire Text File

\$ cat [option] [file ...]

Purpose: Contents of the files are displayed sequentially with no break. Also files display “Concatenated”

\$ less [filename]

Purpose: Displays the contents of a text file one screen at a time.

Getting Help:

\$ man [name of command]

Purpose: Display pages from reference manual.

Example

man ls

man copy

VI Editor:

\$ vi [options] file_list

Purpose: Create a file with the given file name

Change mode in vi editor

i Insert mode

<esc> Command mode

a Append mode A (go to end line)

r Overwrite one character

R Keep overwriting

Delete from vi editor

nx Delete n characters

5dd Delete 5 lines

dl Delete to the end of screen

d\$ Delete to the end of line

d5w Delete 5 words

32 d 8 Delete 8 lines after line 32

Saving changes and quitting from vi editor

Save and exit from vi

<shift- zz)

qq used to exit from vi.

\$ clear

Purpose: (clear screen)

\$ mount /dev/sda1 /usbdrv

Purpose: Mount the USB Device. You have to create a usbdrv directory at the home path.

\$ umount /usbdrv

Purpose: Unmount the USB Device

\$ exit [n]

Purpose: (An internal command which causes current shell to terminate. Used in batch files)

\$ history [n]

Purpose: (displays history of commands. Can use !5 to execute 5th command).