

## Linux commands cheat sheet

### Basic navigation

Command	Purpose	Examples	
cd	change working directory	cd .. cd /course/cs017 cd - cd ~/course cd ~dap/pub	Change to parent directory Change to /course/cs017 Change to previous directory Change to /home/YOUR_USERNAME/course Change to /home/dap/pub
ls	list files in a directory	ls ls dir1 ls -l dir1 ls -a dir1	list files in current directory list files in dir1 show details for each file in dir1 show all files (even hidden files)
pwd	print the current working directory's name		

### People

Command	Purpose	Examples	
floor	see who's logged in where	floor ta	print a map of who's logged into TA areas
finger	find out about a person	finger dap	
snoop	find out about a person	snoop dap	
anyone	find your friends logged in	anyone	Add logins, 1 per line to your ~/.anyone
zwrite	send a message to a person	zwrite dap	
su	switch to user	Don't use this. Use sux.	
sux	switch to user (can use graphical apps)	sux - dap	Switch to user 'dap'

### Permissions

Command	Purpose	Examples	
chgrp	change the group which owns a file	chgrp GROUP file	Change group of 'file' to GROUP
chmod	change the user who owns a file	chmod MODE file	Change mode of 'file' to MODE
umask	change your umask	umask MODE	Change default umask to MODE

**Specific file types**

Command	Purpose	Command	Purpose
acroread	Views pdf files	gzip/gunzip	Gzip compression
xpdf	Views pdf files	zip/unzip	Windows-compatible compression
xdvi	Views dvi files		
gv	Views postscript files (.ps)		

**Miscellaneous commands**

Command	Purpose	Examples	
mv	move and rename files	mv file1 file2 mv file1 dir1	Renames 'file1' to 'file2' Moves 'file1' into 'dir1'
cp	copy files	cp file1 file2 cp -r dir1 dir2	Copies 'file1' to 'file2' Copies everything in 'dir1' to new directory 'dir2'
file	print the type of a file	file file1.pdf	Prints the type of 'file1.pdf'
cat	print a file to the screen	cat file1.txt	Prints 'file1.txt'
less	print a file to the screen, but allow scrolling	less file1.txt	Prints 'file1.txt', with scrolling
rm	delete a file	rm file1 rm -r dir1	Delete 'file1' Delete 'dir1' and everything in it
rmdir	delete an empty directory	rmdir dir1	Delete 'dir1' (must be empty)
mkdir	create a directory	mkdir dir1	Create 'dir1' (must not exist)
tar	create a tar archive	tar xzvf file.tar.gz tar czvf file.tar.gz file1 file2	Decompress 'file.tar.gz' Create 'file.tar.gz', a zipped version of 'file1' and 'file2'
grep	search within a file	grep Lambda file1 file2 grep -i Lambda file1 grep -r lambda /course/cs017	Search for 'Lambda' in 'file1' and 'file2' Case-insensitive search Search all of /course/cs017 (recursively)
find	finds files in a directory tree	find dir1 -name boo	Find file named 'boo' in directory 'dir1'
ps	list running processes	ps -U <yourlogin>	Print processes you're running
kill	kills a process	kill <pid> kill -9 <pid>	End process by process id (obtained from ps) For stubborn processes, REALLY kill them.
pkill	kills a process by name	pkill <name> pkill -9 <name>	Kill all processes with <name> in their name For REALLY stubborn processes