

UNIX Command Reference

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The basic format of a unix command is **command options arguments**.

1 General

- exit** Terminate your current session, or shell.
- man** *command* Display the Unix manual page describing a given Unix command.
- apropos** *command* Locate commands by keyword lookup.

2 File System Navigation

- cd** Return to your home directory.
- cd** *dir* Change directory to make *dir* your current directory.
- ls** List the contents of the current directory.
- ls** *names* List the contents of the directory; *names* can name files and/or directories:
- ls** **-l** List the contents of the directory in a long format, showing permissions, owner, size, and other file info.
- ls** **-a** List all files in the directory, including “hidden” files (file names that begin with a dot “.”).
- pwd** Display the name of the current directory, or “print working directory.”
- file** *files* Determine file type.

3 File/Directory Manipulation

cp <i>file1 file2</i>	Copy file(s) (from <i>file1</i> to new file, <i>file2</i>).
cp <i>files directory</i>	Copy file(s) into a directory.
cp -r <i>dir1 dir2</i>	Copy a directory and, recursively, its subdirectories.
mkdir <i>directory</i>	Create, or “make” a directory.
mv <i>file1 file2</i>	Move a file or, if <i>file1</i> and <i>file2</i> are in the same directory, rename a file.
mv <i>files directory</i>	Move files into a directory.
mv <i>dir1 dir2</i>	If directory <i>dir2</i> exists, move <i>dir1</i> into <i>dir2</i> ; otherwise, rename <i>dir1</i> as <i>dir2</i> .
rm <i>files</i>	Remove (erase) file(s).
rm -rf <i>names</i>	(BE CAREFUL) Remove (by force) files, directories, and recursively, any subdirectories.
rmdir <i>directory</i>	Remove directory (directory must be empty).

4 Data Manipulation

cat <i>files</i>	Display files to the shell.
grep " <i>pattern</i> " <i>files</i>	Display all lines in the files that match a pattern.
more <i>files</i>	Display contents of files one screen at a time.
sort <i>files</i>	Order the lines in a file or files alphabetically (this command does not alter the file or files – it merely displays the sorted output to the screen):
sort -r <i>files</i>	. . . in reverse order.
sort -n <i>files</i>	. . . numerically (puts 2 before 10 instead of after).

5 Networking/Communications

xlock	Locks your screen when you are away from the computer.
ssh <i>hostname</i>	Connect to a remote host using Secure Shell.
zwrite <i>user</i>	Sends a Zephyr message to a user.
finger <i>user</i>	Displays more information about a user.
ll	Displays the logins of everyone logged in to the SunLab.
floor <i>floor-number</i>	Displays the logins of everyone logged in on a specific floor of the CIT.
lw <i>-I course-number</i>	Like ll , except highlights all the students in a specific class.

6 Software

gedit	A basic GUI text editor, a lot like Windows notepad
gvim	A powerful GUI text editor built upon vim
xemacs	A powerful GUI text editor built upon emacs
pico	A basic shell text editor
vim	A powerful shell text editor
xpdf	A pdf viewer
firefox	A web browser
thunderbird	A GUI email client
pine	An email client that runs in the terminal
gaim	An instant messaging client
parsec	An Asteroids game

7 More...

CS department reference	http://www.cs.brown.edu/ugrad/tech/unix.html
Minicourse for UNIX	http://cs.brown.edu/ugrad/tech/slides/unixintro.pdf
'Cheat Sheet'	http://amath.colorado.edu/computing/unix/cheatsheet/A.pdf