

Operating System 2 – Commands Summary

| Function | Command | Description | Examples |
|--|---------|--|--|
| Directory Commands | | | |
| Directory location (absolute pathname) | pwd | Print working directory. Displays the absolute pathname for the current directory (the directory you are in). | pwd |
| Directory List | ls | List the contents of the current directory or any directory you specify. | ls ls /home |
| Create (make) directories | mkdir | Make directory. Must include the name of the directory (or directories you want to create) | mkdir <i>newdir</i> |
| Delete directories | rmdir | Remove directory. Must indicate the <i>empty</i> directory to delete. | rmdir <i>newdir</i> |
| Change directory | cd | Change directory , to move the shell into another directory. A single / (slash) sign takes you to the root directory: Two dots .. take you up to the parent directory: An argument is the name of the directory to move to: Can give the absolute path to the directory to move to: Can give a relative path inside the current directory: | cd / cd .. cd <i>quizzes</i> cd /home/std001/quizzes/q1 cd <i>quizzes/q1</i> |
| File Commands | | | |
| Create file | touch | To create a new file. Must indicate the file name: Can create several files at the same time: | touch <i>file1</i> touch <i>file1 file2 file3</i> |
| View file or write in file or add to file or combine files | cat | Concatenate (combine) files together. Can also be used to create, view and modify files. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- View file: Write the file name after the command (no symbols) 2- Write into file (DELETES existing content): Use the > character 3- Add to file (does NOT delete content): Use the >> characters 4- Combine data from other files: Write a list of file names, then > or >>, then a file name to combine all files into a single file (file3, in this example): | cat <i>file1</i> cat > <i>file1</i> cat >> <i>file1</i> cat <i>file1 file2</i> > <i>file3</i> |
| Delete files (or directories) | rm | Remove a file. Must indicate the file/directory name: Can be used to remove ANY directory or directories with -r option | rm <i>file1</i> rm -r <i>newdir</i> |
| Copy files (or directories) | cp | Copy the contents of one file into another file (first the file to copy from, then the file to copy to): Can be used to copy directory content to another directory with the -r option: | cp <i>file1 file2</i> cp -r <i>dir1 dir2</i> |
| View beginning of file | head | Display part of the beginning of a file. Must indicate file name: | head <i>file1</i> |
| View end of file | tail | Display part of the end of a file. Must indicate file name: | tail <i>file1</i> |
| View file as pages | more | Display a file in pages. Pressing the space button shows the next part of the file: | more <i>file1</i> |
| Search inside file(s) | grep | Search file(s) for keywords. The first argument is the term to search the file for: Can include a phrase in double quotations: Can include more than one file in the search: | grep <i>computer file1</i> grep "the computer" <i>file1</i> grep "the computer" <i>file1 file2</i> |
| Word count (as well as character or line count) | wc | Word count. Without any arguments it allows you to enter some text to get the line, word and character count for: By default, the line, word and character count for the given file are displayed: Can display only the word count using the -w option Can include more than one file name. It will display the information for all files listed, including a total: | wc wc <i>file1</i> wc -w <i>file1</i> wc <i>file1 file2</i> |
| Compare two files (to show differences) | diff | Shows the differences between two files. Can display the contents of the two files side-by-side by using the -y option | diff <i>file1 file2</i> diff -y <i>file1 file2</i> |
| Other Commands | | | |
| Command Information | man | Displays the manual page for a command to see how it's used. | man <i>date</i> |
| Change Password | passwd | Allows a user to change his/her password. | passwd |
| User Information | who | Display a list of users logged into the Linux server. | who |
| Detailed User Information | finger | Displays user information. Without arguments it displays info for all connected users: You can also specify a user to display info for: | finger finger <i>std001</i> |
| Date and Time | date | Displays the current date and time. | date |
| Calendar | cal | Displays a calendar month or year. By default it displays the current month (no arguments): Can display the calendar for the current year with the -y option: Can indicate a specific month and year (e.g. for May 2010): | cal cal -y cal 5 2010 |
| Send message | write | Used to write a message to another user: | write <i>std002</i> |
| Message permissions | mesg | Select if you want other users to send you messages or not. To see the current status (no arguments): To allow other users to send messages to you (y for yes) To prevent other users from sending messages to you (n for no) | mesg mesg y mesg n |