



Introduction to Linux Command Line Interface – The basics

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www.bwhpc.de / www.nhr.kit.edu

Linux

- Operating system
- Kernel: Layer between Hardware and (User-) software
- Desktop Environment
 - KDE
 - GNOME
 - ...
- Distribution: software collection + package management system
 - Ubuntu
 - Manjaro
 - Fedora
 - ..
 - Red Hat Enterprise Linux



https://ubuntu.com





Command Line: Motivation

- Command-line interface (CLI) is often the most powerful and flexible way to interact with a computer
- Commands that tell the computer what to do
- These commands can be combined
- HPC context:
 - Often no GUI needed
 - Overhead of GUI
 - SSH access

- Shell: User interface for OS
 - Bash (other flavors exist)
 - Command line interpreter
 - Scripting language (!)
- Not Linux-only: Windows, MacOS, ...

You can feel like a real haxxor



What is this course about and what not?

We will present the basics of the command line:

- simple commands
- navigating
- some usability features
- no special command
- no programming (what you can do inside of the command line)



The command line interface

```
[projects]$ ls -l foo.txt
```

- prompt [projects]\$
- command line ls -1 foo.txt
 - command ls
 - option -1
 - argument foo.txt
 - cursor



The first command

```
$ echo hello bwHPC
hello bwHPC
$
```

Echo the STRING(s) to standard output.

```
$ echo hello bwHPC
hello bwHPC
$
```

 \rightarrow Task: Please do all examples by yourself.

Using *up-Arrow* for the last command. Use *double* or *single* quote to mark strings.

```
$ echo "hello bwHPC"
hello bwHPC
$ echo 'hello bwHPC'
hello bwHPC
$
```



Getting out of trouble

You can get in trouble by:

- unfinished typing of a command
- Iong or endless running command
- command expecting further input

Solution: holding Ctrl-Key (Strg) and pressing C. Short written as Ctrl-C or ^C (remember as 'cancel')

If it is not working try Ctrl-D (remember as 'end of transmission', 'end of input'), ESC or just q.

- \rightarrow Task: Try and exit the following commands:
- 📕 🖇 echo "hello



📕 🖇 cat





Effect of single and double quotes

Each variable begins with β . There are many variable set that defines the environment.

```
$ echo My home is $HOME
My home is /home/kit/scc/ab1337
```

 \rightarrow Task: Try out the different effects of quoting by print out the variable \$HOME.



Getting help

\$man echo open the manual pages of the command echo. It uses less
as a page viewer, where you can use the arrow keys to navigate.
less basics:

- up & down arrow Move up or down one line
- spacebar Move forward one page
- 📕 q quit
- /<string> search file for <string>.
- n Move to next search result.
- N Move to previous search result.
- p goto beginning of the file
- 📕 h help

 \rightarrow Task: Find out how to print text without the newline at the end.



Summary

- echo <string> Prints string to screen.
- man <command> Displays manual page for command.
- ^C Get out of trouble.
- Up & down arrow Scrolls through previous command history.



Manipulating files

Create files

- \$ touch foobar
- \$ touch foobaz

redirecting standard output (stdout) to a file:

- redirect operator > (overwrites files)
- append operator >>

\$ echo "This is the first line." > foobar.txt
\$ echo "This is the second line." >> foobar.txt
\$ cat foobar.txt
This is the first line.
This is the second line.



Listing

\$ ls
foobar foobar.txt foobaz

 \rightarrow Task: What does ls -lha do? Try also -t and -r. Use different combinations.

Note: For short flags you can combine the flags instead of using ls -l -h -a. Long flags beginning with two dashes ls --help



Make life easier (Tab completion)

use the tab key \rightarrow

\$ cat f→

expands to

\$ cat fooba

twice tab print possible matches

\$ cat fooba-*-*

foobar foobar.txt foobaz

\$ cat foobar.→

→ Task: Print out foobar.txt without typing to much. How many keystrokes are needed?



Make life easier (copy and paste by mouse)

\$ ls
foobar foobar.txt foobaz
\$ cat

Mark foobar.txt with mouse. Click middle mouse button to insert at cursor.

- \rightarrow Tasks:
- Print out foobar.txt.
- What will happen when you print out foobaz including the space after z?



Make life easier (reverse search)

Search the history.

```
$ ^R echo
(reverse-i-search)`echo': echo "This is the
second line." >> foobar.txt
```

- ^C cancel
- ^R previous search
- Enter run command
- right arrow select command for editing
- → Task: Insert a third line to foobar.txt.



Manipulating files: Rename, copy, delete

Moving

Moving a file will rename it.

mv foobaz test
\$ ls
foobar foobar.txt test



Manipulating files: Rename, copy, delete

Copy from source to target

cp foobar.txt test_text.txt
\$ ls
foobar foobar.txt test test_text.txt



Manipulating files: Rename, copy, delete

Remove

WARNING: It is deleted, really, no trash, nothing.

rm foobar.txt
\$ ls
foobar foobar.txt test test_text.txt



Editors (nano)

A basic editor

\$ nano test_text.txt

Help for some useful commands see bottom lines

Try ^K^K^U^U to cut and uncut lines

exit nano

 X exits and asks for save changes, type $_Y$, type filename or press enter for current filename.



Editors (vim)

A much more powerful and very fast editor

```
$ vim test_text.txt
```

Press i to go to insert mode. Now you can type text.

exit vim

Press ESC to go back to the normal (command) mode. Type :q to quit. If you change something you have to write and quit :wq or force quit :q!.

LEARN vim!

\$ vimtutor (-g language)

It takes 25-30 min. You can start at the end of this course.



Summary

- Redirect output to filename
- >> Append output to filename
- touch <file> Create an empty file
- cat <file> Print contents of file to screen
- Is List directory or file
- mv <old> <new> Rename (move) from old to new
- cp <old> <new> Copy from old to new
- rm <file> Delete (remove) file (no recovery!)
- Auto completion
- ^R Reverse search
- vimtutor Tutor for learning vim



Directories

\$ pwd
/home/kit/scc/ab1337

Prints the current working path, starting with the root directory / followed by the directories home, kit, scc and ab1337.



Create directory

- \$ mkdir text_files
- \$ mkdir example

This is relative. Paths are normally relative from the current working path. Absolute paths beginning with the root /.



Moving directories

Move files to directories

```
$ mv *.txt text_files/
$ ls text_files/
```

Use tabs! *.txt is a Wildcard matching all files ended on .txt.



Moving directories

Move (rename) directories

\$ mv example/ data
\$ ls



Changing directories (Navigation)

```
$ cd text_files/
```

\$ cd ..

\$ cd data

cd ... goes one directory up.

→ Task: Double check directories with pwd and ls.



Relative changing

A path beginning with \ldots / goes relative to the current working directory one directory layer for each \ldots / up. Try

\$ cd ../text_files/

Tab completion adds automatically a / at end of directory name. (Don't matter at the moment.)

→ Task: create foo/bar/ at once.



Special navigation

Moving to the last directory

\$ cd -

Moving to the home directory

- \$ cd
- \$ cd ~
- \$ cd \$HOME

\$HOME is the already known variable for the home directory. See later courses for other path variables.



Copying directories

Add -r option for recursive

```
$ cd
$ mkdir foobar
$ cd foobar/
$ cp -r ../text_files .
$ ls
text_files
```

. is the current directory.

→ Task: What happens if you add a / to the source directory
../text_files/?
\$ cp -r ../text_files/ .
\$ ls

```
text_files text.txt
```

Remember as .../text_files is the directory and .../text_files/ is already inside the directory.



Remove directories

Add -r option for recursive

- \$ cd
- \$ rm -r foobar

Warning: Again, there is no warning, it will be deleted, not trash, nothing.

 \rightarrow Task: Do not execute it! What are the options -f and -r are doing in rm? Why you should NEVER use rm -rf /?



Summary

- mkdir <name> Make directory with name
- pwd Print working directory
- cd <dir> Change to <dir>
- cd ~/<dir> cd relative to home
- Cd Change to home directory
- cd Change to previous directory
- The current directory
- .. One directory up
- cp -r <old> <new> Copy recursively
- rm -r <dir> Remove dir and content



Access rights (1)

File systems permissions:

@ Clusters (because using linux):

- \rightarrow classes: user (u), group (g), and others (o)
- \rightarrow Permissions: read (r), write (w), and execute (x)

What rights, example:

```
$ touch test
$ ls -l test
-rw-r--r- 1 ab1234 xyz 0 Oct 9 09:14 test
$ stat test
File: 'test'
Size: 0 Blocks: 0 IO Block: 4194304 regular empty file
Device: 40b8777ah/1085831034d Inode: 144833316355401325 Links: 1
Access: (0644/-rw-r--r-) Uid: (00000/ ab1234) Gid: (00000/ xyz)
Access: 2017-10-09 09:14:02.00000000 +0200
Modify: 2017-10-09 09:14:02.00000000 +0200
Change: 2017-10-09 09:14:02.00000000 +0200
Birth: -
```



Access rights (2)

Manipulate file rights

Change file mode, add write permissions for group xyz

```
$ chmod g+w test
$ ls -l test
-rw-rw-r-- 1 ab1234 xyz 0 Oct 9 09:14 test
$ stat test
File: 'test'
Size: 0 Blocks: 0 IO Block: 4194304 regular empty file
Device: 40b8777ah/1085831034d Inode: 144833316355401325 Links: 1
Access: (0664/-rw-rw-r--) Uid: (00000/ ab1234) Gid: (00000/ xyz)
Access: 2017-10-09 09:14:02.00000000 +0200
Modify: 2017-10-09 09:14:02.00000000 +0200
Change: 2017-10-09 09:16:31.00000000 +0200
Birth: -
```

You cannot change modes of files you do not own!



Access rights (3)

Manipulate file rights

Change file group ownership to group uvw

```
$ chgrp uvw test
$ ls -l test
-rw-rw-r-- 1 ab1234 uvw 0 Oct 9 09:14 test
$ stat test
File: 'test'
Size: 0 Blocks: 0 IO Block: 4194304 regular empty file
Device: 40b8777ah/1085831034d Inode: 144833316355401325 Links: 1
Access: (0664/-rw-rw-r--) Uid: (0000/ ab1234) Gid: (10000/ uvw)
Access: 2017-10-09 09:14:02.00000000 +0200
Modify: 2017-10-09 09:14:02.00000000 +0200
Change: 2017-10-09 09:16:31.00000000 +0200
Birth: -
```

You cannot change group ownership of files you do not own!



Access rights (4)

Access permission dependency to parent directories

```
$ mkdir -p parent/sub1
$ ls -ld parent/sub1
drwxr-xr-x 2 ab1234 xyz 4096 Oct 9 10:14 parent/sub1
$ chmod u-x parent
$ ls -ld parent/sub1
ls: cannot access parent/sub1: Permission denied
```

- \rightarrow To access subdirectory you need access its parent directories!
- Note: To access a directory you need the "execute" permission, to list its contents you need the "read" permission.



Find files

 \rightarrow Task: create some .txt files in different directories.

```
$ find . -name "*.txt"
```

Search recursively for files beginning in the current directory ., filter by name, only display files ending with .txt.

\$ grep -r line

Search recursively (-r) for files and print lines containing line.

 \rightarrow Task:

- Print line number of lines with 'first' using grep
- Print lines not containing 'first' using grep



Any Questions Left?



https://xkcd.com/1168

