

Unix commands

This table summarises some useful Unix terms, commands and programs. The square brackets indicate command options or arguments which are optional.

Command	Description	Syntax
/	Root directory	
./	Current directory	
../	Parent directory of current directory	
~	Default home directory	
man	Unix manual	man commandname
whatis	Short description of command	whatis commandname
apropos	Search manual using keyword	textttapropos keyword
pwd	Print working directory	pwd
ls [-al]	List contents of directory	ls -altr
cat	Print contents of file to terminal	cat filename
more	Print scrollable contents of file to terminal	more filename
cd	Change directory	cd directory
mkdir	Make new directory	mkdir directory
mv [-i]	Move, or change name of, files and directories	mv oldname newname mv filelist directory
rm [-i]	Delete files	rm -i filename
rmdir	Delete directories	rmdir directory
cp [-i]	Copy files and directories	cp -i sourcefile newfile
grep	Print lines matching a pattern	grep pattern filelist
ps	List all current processes by PID	ps ps grep programname
kill	Kill a process running in the background	kill pid
nano	Opens Nano (in terminal) text editor	nano file