

Unix Guide

Unless you have a Unix machine sitting on your desktop, you're probably accessing it through telnet or a command-line shell. This interface may be a little intimidating to new users who are usually a tad more comfortable with a point-and-click interface. But it's really not as hard as it looks.

This reference sheet gives you the basic commands you'll need, focusing especially on file management. You can also learn how to combine commands and become a real power user.

`cat`

Prints files to input, or reads and returns input.

`cd`

Changes directories, allows movement through the directory structure.

`chmod`

Changes permissions on a file or directory

`chown`

Changes ownership of files and directories

`cp`

Copies files.

`date`

Displays or sets the current date and time.

`diff`

Shows differences between files.

`exit`

Ends a process, and returns to the parent process.

`find`

Searches for files.

`finger`

Looks up user information.

`grep`

Look for lines which match a given string or regular expression.

`head`

Prints the first few lines of a file.

`kill`

Terminates a process by PID.

`less`

Displays the content of a file.

`lprm`

Removes printer queue requests.

`ls`

Lists files in a directory.

`man`

Displays the manual page for a program.

`mkdir`

Creates directories.

`more`

Prints the contents of files.

`mv`

Moves or renames files.

`passwd`

Creates or changes passwords.

`ps`

Gives a list of all active processes, along with other information.

`pwd`

Prints the current directory.

`rlogin`

Logs into remote systems

rm

Removes files.

rmdir

Removes empty directories.

su

Logs in as another user.

tail

Prints the last few lines of a file.

telnet

Communicates with other hosts via the telnet protocol.

who

Gives a list of logged in users.