

Unix Reference Card

This reference card contains the basic commands necessary to navigate around the Unix file system. There are many more commands representing many programs. Each program here will have several options that may be typed after the program name in order to make the program perform different tasks. If you ever need more information about a command, type:

```
% man programname
```

where the % sign is your command line prompt (it should already exist and doesn't need to be typed), **man** is short for the manual program in Unix, and *programname* is the name of the program/command that you need more information about.

In the following table, the different formats you see will represent:

- *italics* A necessary argument to the command that should have a descriptive title
- +optional+ All optional arguments will be enclosed by +'s

You must hit a return after typing in a command and commands, arguments, and optional arguments normally need to be separated by spaces. Unlike some other operating systems, the case (upper or lower) matters in Unix, so a file with the name *Snoopy.txt* is a different file from *snoopy.txt*

Name	Description	Example
cat <i>filename1</i>	Display the contents of <i>filename</i> . This command may accept multiple filename arguments in which case it will concatenate the files in the order or the filename arguments and display them all at once.	cat withTheWildNose.txt cat withTheWildNose.txt eatsBugs.txt
cd +directory-name+	Change from your current directory into another one. If you type the command with no arguments you will go to your home directory,	cd .. cd finickyFolder cd

	<p>If you type a . as a directory-name, then the program will stay in the current directory, and if you type .. as the directory name, then the program will change directories to the directory above the current one in the directory tree.</p>	
<p>cp <i>filename1</i> <i>filename2</i></p>	<p>Copies the contents of <i>filename1</i> to a file with the name <i>filename2</i>. This command will overwrite <i>filename2</i> if it already exists.</p>	<p>cp sillyCats.txt catsWhoSlideAcrossFloors.txt</p>
<p>date</p>	<p>Used to give the date</p>	<p>date</p>
<p>du +directoryName+</p>	<p>Display disk usage</p>	<p>du</p>
<p>findhog</p>	<p>This is an RIT script used to find the biggest files in your directory/account. Very useful if you are over quota and don't know what to delete.</p>	<p>findhog</p>
<p>less <i>filename</i></p>	<p>Displays <i>filename</i> one screenful at a time. Similar to the more command.</p>	<p>less heavenlyChocolate</p>
<p>lp <i>fileName</i></p>	<p>Prints a file to the default printer. If you want to print to a specific printer then type: lp -d printername <i>fileName</i></p>	<p>lp -d csl_lw2 luckyMe.txt</p>
<p>ls +directoryname+</p>	<p>Without the optional argument, ls gives a listing of the files and directories in the current directory. With the optional directory</p>	<p>ls -a ls jellyBeanFlavors ls /etc/hosts</p>

	<p>name, ls will give a file/directory listing of the information from that particular directory. ls is commonly used with the following options.</p> <p>ls -a List all (even hidden or <i>dot</i> files) ls -l Give a long listing display</p>	
mkdir <i>directory-name</i>	Makes a directory or folder with the name <i>directory-name</i>	mkdir answersInTheUniverse
more	Displays information one screenful at a time.	more bitsPerGallon.txt
mv <i>old-name new-name</i>	Moves or renames <i>old-name</i> to <i>new-name</i> . If <i>old-name</i> is a directory, then mv moves <i>old-name</i> into <i>new-name</i> .	mv snoopy.txt snoopyBird.txt mv cs/lab1 cs/labs/lab1
pwd	Display (Print out) the current (Working) Directory.	pwd
rmdir <i>directory-name</i>	Removes a directory/folder if it has no contents underneath it.	rmdir ickyPooDirectory
rm <i>name1 name2</i>	<p>For files, rm removes them in the order specified on the command line. There may be several files that are removed at once. When given as the following:</p> <p>rm -r <i>directory-name</i></p> <p>rm will remove <i>directory-name</i> recursively, removing all files and sub-folders</p>	<p>rm -r lotsOfFishyFiles</p> <p>rm -r files/ofFishynessFolder</p>

	<p>underneath <i>directory-name</i>. Be careful with this command as it is difficult (if not impossible) to get folder contents back if you accidentally erase important folders in your account. If you accidentally erase a lab, make sure to contact your instructor immediately. It may be possible to get archival copies from a backup disk if the files/folders aren't new.</p>	
ssh <i>hostname</i>	<p>OpenSSH Secure shell that allows you to login to other machines remotely. Can also be done as: ssh <i>username@hostname</i></p>	ssh snoopy@queeg.cs.rit.edu
top	<p>Show continuously what processes/programs are currently taking up the majority of processing time on a machine. Very helpful if you notice your machine is being very slow. You can hold down control and type c (ctrl-c) in order to exit this program.</p>	top