

BASIC LINUX COMMANDS

Listing files and directories

`ls`

Detailed listing

`ls -l`

Lots of details about the contents of your directory

The * wildcard

`ls d*`

This will list all files in the current directory starting with d

Making Directories

`mkdir tom`

Changing to a different directory

`cd tom`

change to parent directory

`cd ..`

will take you one directory up the hierarchy.

Command	Meaning
<code>ls</code>	list files and directories
<code>ls -a</code>	list all files and directories
<code>mkdir</code>	make a directory

<code>cd <i>directory</i></code>	change to named directory
<code>cd</code>	change to home-directory
<code>cd ~</code>	change to home-directory
<code>cd ..</code>	change to parent directory
<code>pwd</code>	display the path of the current directory

Copying and moving files

Command	Meaning
<code>cp <i>file1 file2</i></code>	copy file1 and call it file2
<code>mv <i>file1 file2</i></code>	move or rename file1 to file2
<code>rm <i>file</i></code>	remove a file
<code>rmdir <i>directory</i></code>	remove a directory
<code>cat <i>file</i></code>	display a file
<code>less <i>file</i></code>	display a file a page at a time
<code>head <i>file</i></code>	display the first few lines of a file
<code>tail <i>file</i></code>	display the last few lines of a file
<code>grep '<i>keyword</i>' <i>file</i></code>	search a file for keywords
<code>wc <i>file</i></code>	count number of lines/words/characters in file

Other useful UNIX commands

Compress and extract files

This reduces the size of a file, thus freeing valuable disk space.

```
tar -czvf archive.tar.gz directoryname
```

Extract archive

```
tar -xzvf archive.tar.gz
```

Show command history

```
history
```

Open files using Text Editors

Popular text editors are vi, nano, gedit, leafpad etc.

Open file

```
gedit filename
```

E.g.

```
gedit tom.txt
```

```
leafpad tom.txt
```

```
nano tom.txt
```

How to install Microsoft fonts in Linux office suites

```
sudo apt-get install ttf-mscorefonts-installer
```

Update font cache

```
sudo fc-cache -fv
```

Display information about the CPU architecture

```
lscpu
```

REFERENCES

UNIX Tutorial for Beginners

<http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/Teaching/Unix/>

Compiled by **Vimal Kumar V.**, Technical Assistant, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for **One Day Intensive Basic Linux Training** organised by **Kerala Library Association-Kottayam Region** at **BCM College**, Kottayam on 27 August 2016.