

Useful Unix Command

Commands are in bold
User supplied items in italics

- cat** *file*
-displays file without stopping
- cd** *directory*
-change to a subdirectory of the current directory
- cd** */path/directory*
-change to a new directory
- cd** *..*
-move up one directory
- chmod** *+w dir*
-changes permissions of directory to make allow others to write into it.
- cp** *file location*
-Copies a file to a new location, where the location can be a directory or a new file name.
- date**
-shows the date and time
- df** *-b*
-shows the amount of room left on the hard drives
- ftp** *machine*
-transfer files between current computer and named machine.
Examples of named machine are slater or slater.cem.msu.edu or 35.8.24.20
User logs into the new machine then types
get file -to bring a file from the new machine or
put file -to send a file to the new machine or
dir -to show files on the new machine or
cd directory -to change to a new directory on the new machine.
- kill** *-9 pid*
-stops the job with the given pid number (get pid number with ps command)
- lpq**
-shows which jobs are pending in the print queue
- lpr** *file*
-activates a script that allows the user the option of sending a file to a variety of printers.
- lprm** *job#*
-removes a job from the print queue (job number is gotten from the lpr command) *Note: This command will only work for files send to the line printer.*
- ls**
-Lists files in the current directory

ls -a
-Lists files including hidden files

ls -l
-Lists files along with size, date, ownership and permissions

mail user
-sends mail to the specified user on that computer.
End the message by typing control-D

mail user@addr
-sends mail to a user on another computer.
End the message by typing control-D

man command
-shows manual page on how to use that command

man -k word
-shows commands related to word

mkdir directory
-creates a new directory

more file
-displays a file controlled by the commands:
return -show next line
space -show next screen
b -show previous screen
q -quit

mv file location
-If location is a file name, this renames the file.
-If location is a directory, this moves the file there.

passwd
-changes users password (for machines not using yellow pages)
otherwise use yppasswd

program
-typing the name of a program will run that program

program &
-runs the program in the background, so the user can continue
to work while the program runs

ps
-shows processes belonging to the user for that session by pid
number

ps -u user
-shows all processes belonging to the specified user by pid number

pwd
-shows current directory path

rlogin machine
-allows user to work in text mode on the named machine.
Examples of named machine are slater or slater.cem.msu.edu or
35.8.24.20

rm file

-deletes the file

rm *.ext
-deletes all files with that extension (be careful)

rm *
-deletes everything in that directory (be really careful)
Don't do this in your home directory ever, there are important hidden files!!

rmdir directory
-deletes the directory

talk user
-allows interactive typing of messages between to logged in users.
Second user must also type talk first_user

telnet machine
-Allows user to work in text mode on the named machine.
Examples of named machine are slater or slater.cem.msu.edu or 35.8.24.20

time program
-runs the program then tells the user how long the program took to complete

vi
-the Unix ASCII text editor (requires a complete set of instructions of it's own)

who
-shows who is logged in

whoami
-shows your login ID

yppasswd
-changes users password (for machines using yellow pages)
otherwise use passwd