

# A Brief Linux Reference Guide

## Working with directories

- `mkdir <name>`
  - make subdirectory with specified name
- `rmdir <name>`
  - remove specified subdirectory
- `cd <name>`
  - move down to specified subdirectory
- `cd ..`
  - move up one directory level
- `ls`
  - get a directory listing
- `ls -l`
  - directory listing, long format (letter l)
- `ls -al`
  - directory listing, including hidden files

## Working with files

- `more <filename>`
  - display the contents of the file, a page at a time (press `<space>` to go to next page, or `<b>` to back up to the previous page)
- `chmod <permissions> <file>`
  - set the permissions on `<file>`
- `chown <UID>.<GID> <file>`
  - change the user.group owner of `<file>`
- `cp <source> .`
  - copy specified file to current directory
- `cp <source> <dest>`
  - copy file `<source>` to the destination
- `mv <old> <new>`

- rename the file from <old> to <new>
- `mv <old> <dest>`
  - move the file <old> to the destination
- `rm <file>`
  - remove the specified file
- `rm *`
  - remove all files in current directory
- `head <file>`
  - display the first 10 lines of <file>
- `head -20 <file>`
  - display the first 20 lines of <file>
- `tail <file>`
  - display the last 10 lines of <file>
- `tail -20 <file>`
  - display the last 20 lines of <file>

# Administration

- `man <command>`
  - display the manual for <command>
- `passwd`
  - change your account's password
- `chfn`
  - change your account's full name
- `top`
  - display all running processes
- `kill <pid>`
  - kill one of your processes
- `ps -u <user>`
  - display all running processes for <user>

# Special files

- `public_html`
  - directory in which all web pages should reside
- `.profile`
  - account setup file (similar to autoexec.bat)
- `.forward`
  - used to forward email to another email address