

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 `` 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