

Simple Unix Tutorial

In Unix data is organized in a hierarchical fashion using files and directories (folders). In the hierarchy, a forward slash '/' represents the root directory under which all system's files and directories reside.

The following are commonly used Unix commands. In the description below a % character represents the Unix prompt.

1. ls

Definition: list directory contents. You can use the command with several options. One option you might find useful is -l which provides information like size, and last modification time.

Example: (Assuming we have a file called data and a directory call Projects)
(The file data has a size of 31 bytes and was modified on Feb 5 15:33)

```
% ls
Projects data
% ls -l
total 6
drwxr-xr-x  3 bb131002 100      2048 Feb  5 15:54 Projects2
-rw-r--r--  1 bb131002 100      31 Feb  5 15:33 data
%
```

2. pwd

Definition: prints the current working directory.

Example:

```
% pwd
/afs/wam.umd.edu/home/wam/b/b/bb131002/home/Test
%
```

3. mkdir

Definition: creates a directory.

Example:

```
% mkdir MyHomeworks
```

4. rmdir

Definition: removes a directory. The directory must be empty.

Example:

```
% rmdir MyHomeworks
```

5. cd

Definition: changes the working directory.

Example:

```
% cd MyHomeworks    -> makes MyHomeworks the current directory  
% cd                -> takes you back to your home directory  
% cd ..             -> takes you to the directory above the current directory
```

6. rm

Definition: removes files or directories.

Example:

```
% rm data           -> removes file named data  
% rm -f -r MyHomeworks -> removes all the files/directories in the directory  
                        MyHomeworks
```

7. mv

Definition: moves files and directories and allows you to rename a file or directory.

Example: (Assuming the file data2 does not exist and the directory Projects2 exist).

```
% mv data data2     -> the file name has changed from data to data2  
% mv data2 Projects2 -> the data2 file has been moved to Projects2
```

8. cp

Definition: copies files and directories.

Example:

% cp data data3 -> two files with exact contents

9. pico ('nano' instead on vishkinpc.ece.umd.edu)

Definition: simple text editor. Follow the commands description at the bottom of the text editor for more information.

Example:

% pico data -> creates a file named pico or opens it (if it already exist)

10. less

Definition: allows you to browse through a text file.

Example:

```
% less data
This is a file with some data.
%
```

11. date

Definition: generates the current date and time.

Example:

```
% date
Thu Feb 5 16:04:02 EST 2004
%
```

12. passwd

Definition: allows you to change the account password.

Example:

% passwd

13. man

Definition: displays information about a command.

Example:

% man less

14. logout

Definition: allows you to exit your account

Example:

% logout