Workshop 1: 
Introduction to UNIX command-line

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“Swiss Army knife” set of tools

Thanks to Serghei Mangul for base slides!
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Workshop 1: Introduction to UNIX command--line

• **Day 1**
  – Unix - Learning the essentials
  – Unix fundamentals, syntax, and usage

• **Day 2**
  – Unix commands
  – Useful tools for processing text files

• **Day 3**
  – Useful shell commands
  – UNIX Shell Scripting
  – Running jobs on the Hoffman2 cluster
Why Unix?

• As biological data sets have grown larger and biological problems have become more complex, the requirements for computing power have also grown.

• Computers that can provide this power generally use a Unix/Linux operating system (e.g. Hoffman2)
Why Unix?

• It is very popular, so it is easy to find information and get help
• Unix is very stable – computers running Unix almost never crash
• Unix is very efficient
  – manage extremely huge amounts of data
• Most new bioinformatics software is created for Unix
# Command line interface

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>CLI</th>
<th>GUI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ease</td>
<td>Due to a higher degree of memorization and familiarity needed for operation and navigation, new users find operating a command line interface more difficult than a GUI.</td>
<td>Because a GUI is much more visually intuitive, new users almost always pick up this interface faster than a CLI.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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# Command line interface

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<td>Control</td>
<td>Users have more control over both the file and operating systems in a command line interface. For example, users can copy a specific file from one location to another with a one-line command.</td>
<td>Although a GUI offers ample access to the file and operating systems, advanced tasks may still need to utilize the command line.</td>
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# Command line interface

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<td>Multitasking</td>
<td>Although many command line environments are capable of multitasking, they do not offer the same ease and ability to view multiple things at once on one screen.</td>
<td>GUI users have windows that enable a user to view, control, manipulate, and toggle through multiple programs and folders at same time.</td>
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hKp://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000619.htm
## Command line interface

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<td>Speed</td>
<td>Command line users only need to utilize their keyboards to navigate the interface. Additionally, they often only need to execute a few lines to perform a task.</td>
<td>Using both a mouse and keyboard to navigate and control your operating or file system is going to be much slower than someone who is working in a command line.</td>
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<td>Scripting</td>
<td>A command line interface enables a user to script a sequence of commands to perform a task or execute a program.</td>
<td>Although a GUI enables a user to create shortcuts, tasks, or other similar actions, it doesn't even come close in comparison to what is available through a command line.</td>
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<td>Diversity</td>
<td>After you've learned how to navigate and use a command line, it's not going to change as much as a new GUI. Although new commands may be introduced, the original commands always remain the same.</td>
<td>Each GUI has a different design and structure when it comes to performing different tasks. Even different iterations of the same GUI, such as Windows, can have hundreds of different changes between each version.</td>
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# Command line interface

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<td>Strain</td>
<td>The command line allows the user to keep their hands on the keyboard, almost never touching the mouse. Moving back and forth between a keyboard and mouse can cause additional strain and may help contribute to Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.</td>
<td>Although shortcut keys can help reduce the amount of times you have move from the keyboard to the mouse, you will still be moving much more between devices in a GUI.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do biologists need to become programmers?

*provided in the class

*free and easy to use
Hoffman2

UCLA user’s Terminal

Job submission

Job completion

Login Nodes

Computing Nodes, Storage

How to connect to hoffman2

• Open a **SSH** program on your computer
• Connect to: **hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu**
• Type your **username** and **password**
  
  – ssh **pscott17@hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu**
  
  – **pscott17@hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu**'s password:

  – Notice that when you type a password, nothing shows up on the screen, this is for your security
Open **SSH** program

- **Terminal**
- `hKp://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/download.html`
Connect to hoffman2

- hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu
- Session name (e.g. hoffman2)

"Yes" for fingerprint for the first time!
Connect to hoffman2

ssh pscott17@hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu
The Unix Shell

• A shell is a program that waits for you to type a command and then executes it.
  – type the command, then “return”
The Unix Shell

• A shell is a program that waits for you to type a command and then executes it.
  • Uses a general basic syntax:
    – “program/utility/language” +flags +file
The Unix Shell

• A shell is a program that waits for you to type a command and then executes it.
  • Uses a general basic syntax:
    – “program/utility/language” +flags +file

$ ls -l *.txt

Translates to: list (ls); modify display to long (−l); all text files (*.txt)
Unix File System

Unix is case sensitive!

```
/my
    |- bin
    |- etc
    |- home
    |- usr
      |- john
      |  |- portfolio
      |
      |- mary

/home/john/portfolio/
/home/mary/

Hoffman2: /u/home/p/pscott17/project/
```
Home directory

• When you login to the hoffman2 server, you always start in your **Home** directory.

• Create sub-directories to store specific projects or groups of information

Tips

Do **not** accumulate thousands of files with cryptic names in your Home directory
Command: passwd

- changes your hoffman2 password
- A very good idea after you got a default one.

[pscott17@login3 ~]$ passwd
Changing password for user pscott17.
Please enter your current password:
Command: `pwd`

- To display current directory

  ```
  [pscott17@login3 ~] $ pwd
  /u/home/p/pscott17
  ```
Command: mkdir

• To create a new directory use “mkdir”

[pscott17@login3 ~]$ mkdir test

Tips: If no error message is displayed means the command was run successfully
Command: cd

- cd changes your current working directory

```
[pscott17@login3 ~]$ cd test
[pscott17@login3 test]$ pwd
/u/home/p/pscott17/test
```
Command: cd

• “~” is the location of your home directory
• “..” is the location of the directory above the current one
Let’s practice

[pscott17@login3 test]$ cd ~

[pscott17 @login3 ~]$ pwd
/u/home/p/pscott17

[pscott17 @login3 ~]$ cd ..
[pscott17@login3 s]$ pwd
/u/home/p

[pscott17@login3 s]$ cd pscott17/test
/u/home/p/pscott17
– to go back to previously entered commands, use the up and down arrows
– to auto-complete file names, use the tab key
– if you are stuck within a command/process/program, try ctrl–z (Mac) or ctrl–c (Linux/Windows) to terminate it
Let’s practice

[pscott17@login3 ~]$ cd test
[pscott17@login3 test]$ mkdir newdir
[pscott17@login3 test]$ cd newdir
pscott17@login3 newdir]$ cd ..
Create a text file

1. [pscott@login3 test]$ nano test.txt

2. Type something (My first text file!).

3. Press ctrl-o (wrote out – this saves the file).

4. Press ctrl-x (exit – this will also give you options to save).

5. Lots of other text editors (vi is very popular – steeper learning curve).
Command: `ls`

- to list the files in the current directory

```
[pscott17@login3] $ ls
  test.txt
  newdir
```
Command: `ls`

- `ls` has many options
  - `-l` long list (display lots of info)
  - `-s` sort by modification time
  - `-S` sort by size
  - `-h` human readable
  - `-r` reverse order

- Options can be combined: `ls -lh`
Let’s practice!

[pscott17@login3 test]$ ls
newdir test.txt

[pscott17@login3 test]$ ls -l
total 8
drwxr-xr-x 2 pscott17 hbshaffe 4096 Sep 8 09:35
newdir
-rw-r--r-- 1 pscott17 hbshaffe 80 Sep 8 09:50 test.txt

[pscott17@login3 test]$ ls -lh
total 8.0K
drwxr-xr-x 2 pscott17 hbshaffe 4.0K Sep 8 09:35
newdir
-rw-r--r-- 1 pscott17 hbshaffe 80 Sep 8 09:50 test.txt
How to know more?

• Manual
• Google
Command: man

- displays manual pages

[pscott17@login3 test]$ man ls

NAME
ls - list directory contents

SYNOPSIS
ls [OPTION]... [FILE]...

DESCRIPTION
- Whenever you need help with a command type "man" and the command name.
- List information about the FILEs (the current directory by default).
- Sort entries alphabetically if none of `-cftuvSUX` nor `--sort`.
- Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

-a, --all
- do not ignore entries starting with .

Q q to exit (windows)

Ctrl Z to exit (mac)
How can I sort the output of 'ls' by last modified date?

- `ls -t`
- `ls -tr`

or (for reverse, most recent at bottom):

The `ls` man page describes this in more details, and lists other options.
General Syntax: *

• “*” can be used as a wildcard in Unix

```
[pscott17@login3 test]$
ls *txt

[pscott17@login3 test]$
ls t*t

[pscott17@login3 test]$
ls t*

[pscott17@login3 test]$
ls txt
```

test.txt

Displaying a file

• Various ways to display a file in Unix
  – cat
  – less
  – head
  – tail
Command: cat

- dumps an entire file to standard output
- good for displaying short, simple files

```
[pscott17@login3 test]$ cat test.txt
My first txt file!
```
Command: less

• Scrolling through a file without a mouse

Up and down keys
Scroll one line

space or ctrl-b
Scroll one page

q to exit (windows)

ctrl–z to exit (mac)
Let’s practice!

Make a text file “large.txt” with the numbers 1-300

[pscott17@login3 test]$ printf ‘%s\n’ {1..300} > large.txt
Let’s practice!

[pscott17@login3 test]$ head large.txt
1
2
...
9
10

[pscott17@login3 test]$ tail large.txt
291
292
...
300

[pscott17@login3 test]$ tail -n 3 large.txt
298
299
300
File Commands

• Copying a file: `cp`
• Move or rename a file: `mv`
• Remove a file: `rm`
  • There is NO going back!!!!
  • although see:
    [https://support.idre.ucla.edu/helpdesk/KB/View/6079312-i-deleted-a-file-in-my-home-directory--how-can-i-recover-it](https://support.idre.ucla.edu/helpdesk/KB/View/6079312-i-deleted-a-file-in-my-home-directory--how-can-i-recover-it)
Copy

`cp <source> <destination>`

- **To copy a file use** `cp`

  - `-i` (interactive)
    - Prompts you to confirm if the file is going to overwrite a file in your destination.
  - `-r` (recursive)
    - Rather than just copying all the files and directories, copies the whole directory tree, subdirectories and all, to another location.
  - `-f` (force)
    - Copies without prompting you for confirmation that the file should be overwritten.
  - `-v` (verbose)
    - Will show the progress of the files being copied.
Let's practice

[pscott17@login3 test] $ cp test.txt text1.txt
[pscott17@login3 test] $ ls
large.txt newdir test1.txt txt test.txt

[pscott17@login3 test] $ mkdir new
[pscott17@login3 test] $ cp -r new new2
[pscott17@login3 test] $ ls
large.txt new new2 newdir test1.txt txt test.txt

[pscott17@login3 test] $ cp test.txt new2
[pscott17 @login3 test] $ cp test.txt new2/test_new.txt
[pscott17@login3 test] $ cd new2
[pscott17@login3 new] $ ls
test_new.txt test.txt
Command: mv

mv <source> <destination>

- moves a file/directory to a different location
- renames a file/directory

[pscott17@login3 new2]$ cd ..
[pscott17@login3 test]$ pwd
/u/home/p/pscott17/test
[pscott17@login3 test]$ mv test1.txt new
[pscott17@login3 test]$ mv test.txt test_rename.txt
[pscott17@login3 test]$ ls
large.txt new new2 newdir test_rename.txt test.tx
[pscott17@login3 test]$ mv test.tx new/test2.txt
Symbolic Links

- is a special kind of file that points to another file

```
ln <ORIGINAL_FILE> <LINK_NAME>
```

existing file for which you want to create the symbolic link
name of the symbolic link

Original file

Link

Data on the hard disc
Good to know

- You can perform an operation on `LINK_NAME`, just as you could with the `ORIGINAL_FILE`.
- You can use normal file management commands (e.g., `cp`, `rm`) on the symbolic link.

Don’t modify the original file through the link.
Let’s practice!

[pscott17@login3 new2] $ cd new

[pscott17@login3 new2] $ ln -s /u/home/p/pscot17/test/new2/ new2

[pscott17@login3 new2] $ ls

[pscott17@login3 new2] $ less new2/test.txt
Command: `rm`

- to remove a file use `rm`
- to remove a directory use `rm -r`

```
[pscott17@login3 new]$ cd ~/test/new2
[pscott17@login3 test]$ rm test.txt
[pscott17@login3 test]$ cd ..
[pscott17@login3 test]$ rm -r new2
[pscott17@login3 test]$ ls
large.txt  new  newdir  test_rename.txt
```

Files and directories deleted with `rm` are gone forever and cannot be recovered!!!
Good to know

• **cp/mv/rm** can work on many files at once:
  
  ```
  cp file1 file2 new/
  rm file1 file2 file27
  ```

• **cp/mv/rm** can work with *:
  
  ```
  mv f* new/
  rm f*
  rm l*s
  rm *txt
  ```
Accidental loss

- Backup your files on external hard drive
- Modify your personal Linux environment
- Remove your own write access to files you intend to not change or delete (Day 2)
Backup

- Make backup copies of files and directories in compressed tar format
- Copy to your laptop/hard drive

```bash
[pscott17@login3 test]$ tar -czvf new.tgz new/
[pscott17@login3 test]$ ls -l
```

```
total 12
-rw-r--r--  1 pscott17  hbshaffe  255 Mar 11 10:30 large.txt
drwxr-xr-x  2 pscott17  hbshaffe  4096 Mar 11 10:55 new
-rw-r--r--  1 pscott17  hbshaffe  228 Mar 11 11:34 new.tar
-rw-r--r--  1 pscott17  hbshaffe    19 Mar 11 10:20 test_rename.txt
```
Remote copying: `scp`

File located on the laptop, in the current directory

```
scp <localFile> user@hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu:<path>
```

Where on the cluster `<localFile>` will be copied

File located on the cluster, in the `<path>` directory

```
scp user@hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu:<path>/<remoteFile> ./
```

Run `scp` from the local session of the terminal. To open a local session:
- Control-T to open a new tab
- New tab be default corresponds to a local session

-
Let’s practice

• [users-MacBook-Air]$ scp
  pscott17@hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu:~/test/new.tar ./
• pscott17@hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu's password:
Lots of Mac/Linux folks use this too!!!
Winscp
Username: berghei
Cluster name: hoffman2.idre.ucla.edu
Password: ************
Winscp
To copy the files between the laptop and cluster, simply drag and drop.
Modify your Linux environment

• Add prompted confirmation before any existing file is deleted or overwritten.

  cp  -i
  mv  -i
  rm  -i
Let’s practice

- `[pscott17@login3 test]$ mv -i test_rename.txt large.txt
  mv: overwrite `test2.txt'?`

- `[pscott17@login3 test]$ rm -i large.txt
  rm: remove regular file `test2.txt'?`
Alias

• enables a replacement of a string by another string

\[
\text{cp/mv/rm} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{cp/mv/rm -i}
\]

• Go to home directory: `cd ~`
• Open file `.bash_profile`: `nano .bash_profile`
• Add in the end of the file the following lines:

```
alias cp='cp -i'
alias mv='mv -i'
alias rm='rm -i'
```

• Restart the session or source `~/.bash_profile`
Let’s practise

- [pscott17@login3 new]$ mv test1.txt test2.txt
  - mv: overwrite `test2.txt'? 

- [pscott17@login3 new]$ rm test2.txt
  - rm: remove regular file `test2.txt'?
## Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>pwd</code></td>
<td>report your current directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>cd &lt;to where&gt;</code></td>
<td>change your current directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>ls &lt;directory&gt;</code></td>
<td>list contents of directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>cp &lt;old file&gt; &lt;new file&gt;</code></td>
<td>copy file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>cp -r &lt;old dir&gt; &lt;new dir&gt;</code></td>
<td>copy a directory and its contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>mv &lt;old file/dir&gt; &lt;new file/dir&gt;</code></td>
<td>move (or rename)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>rm &lt;file&gt;</code></td>
<td>delete a file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>rm -r &lt;dir&gt;</code></td>
<td>remove a directory and its contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>mkdir &lt;new directory name&gt;</code></td>
<td>make a directory</td>
</tr>
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</table>
1. Create directory “practice” in your home directory
2. Inside directory “practice” create files p.a and p.b
3. Create a copy of file p.a(p_copy.a) and rename file p.b (new name : practice.b)
4. Delete all files ending with b