

UNIX Quick Reference

The following format is used for commands:

Italic indicates a variable that you supply
Bold indicates exactly what you type

To display a command description for the UNIX Manual:
`man command`

^ stands for the Control or CTRL key

afsquota--Displays your AFS resources, use and threshold.

asuinfo (general.inre.asu.edu only)--Help developed for the ASU computing environment.

bg--Places a suspended job in the background.

cat--Displays a specified file.
`cat file`

cd--Changes current directory to a different directory.
`cd directory`
To change to your home directory:
`cd`
Directory abbreviations:
~ Home directory
.. Parent directory
. Current working directory

chmod--Changes permission status for a file or directory.
`chmod code file`
`chmod code directory`
To keep a file private:
`chmod 600 file`
To give everyone read permission:
`chmod 644 file`

clear--Clears the screen.

compress--Reduces the size of a file and adds .Z to the file's name.
`compress file`
To restore a compressed file:
`uncompress file.Z`

cp--Makes a copy of a file.
`cp file1 file2`
To copy a file into a different directory:
`cp file directory`
To inquire before overwriting an existing file:
`cp -i file1 file2`

csh--Runs C shell
% Command line prompt
`setenv DISPLAY 129.219.21.XX:0.0`

date--Displays today's date, time and time zone.

diff--Compares two files and displays the differences.

exit--Logs you out.

fg--Restarts a suspended job in the foreground.

finger--Displays user information at the specified computer.
`finger userid@computer`
To change your finger entry information:
`chfn`

find--To find files.

ftp--Starts the file transfer program with a remote computer.
`ftp address`

grep--Finds lines in a file matching a character pattern.
`grep -icvn pattern file`
-i Ignores case
-c Lists count of lines that contain pattern
-v Lists all lines except those with pattern
-n Lists line number for each found pattern

head--Displays the first ten lines of a file.
`head file`
To display the first *n* number of lines:
`head -n file`

history--Displays a list of your most recent commands.
h
To repeat the *n*th command from the list:
!*n*
To repeat your most recent command:
!!

hostname--Displays server name.

jobs--Displays active jobs and their corresponding numbers.
jobs
To start a job on the background:
`job &`
To return a job to the foreground by the job number:
`fg %number`
To send a running job to the background:
`^z bg`

kill--Terminates a process by its *process identification number*.
`kill pid`
To use the strongest form of the kill command:
`kill -9 pid`

ksh--Runs Korn shell.
\$ Command line prompt
`DISPLAY=129.219.21.XX:0.0 ; export DISPLAY`

ln--To link files.

logout--Ends your computer session.

lp (System V) (lprBSD and SUN OS) (lpr enuxsa)
Sends a file to the printer.

lp -cw *printer file*

-c Copies.
-w Write message after printing.
-d Change printer destination.
-ovd Duplex printing.

lpstat (UNIX System V only)--Lists printer status.

lpstat -a Lists status of all available printers.

lpstat *printer1* Lists print queue for *printer1*

ls--Lists the files and subdirectories in your current directory.

ls -l

-l Lists long format
-t Lists by modification time
-r Lists in reverse order
-F Lists file type with special

character

-a Lists all files including dot (.)

files

man--Displays UNIX Manual entry for a command.

man *command*

To search Manual Index for a keyword or topic:

man -k *keyword*

mesg--Displays your talk and write message access status.

mesg

To set your message status to receive or not:
mesg y (or n)

mkdir--Creates a new directory within your current directory.

mkdir *directory*

more--Displays a file one screen at a time.

more *file*

Use <Spacebar> to scroll forward and q to quit.

mv--Moves a file to a different directory.

mv *file directory*

Moves a directory to a second directory.

mv *directory1 directory2*

To rename file1 as file2:

mv *file1 file2*

To rename directory1 as directory2:

mv *directory1 directory2*

To inquire before overwriting an existing file:

mv -i *file1 file2*

passwd--Starts program to change account password.

pico--Starts the Pico™ text editor with a file.
pico *file*

pine (general.inre.asu.edu or gen-mail.asu.edu)
Starts the Pine™ electronic mail program..

ps--Displays processes and their corresponding process identification numbers.

pwd--Displays absolute pathname of current directory.

rm--Permanently deletes a file.

rm *file*

To verify prior to removal

rm -i *file*

rmdir--Deletes an empty directory.

rm *directory*

To verify prior to removal:

rmdir -i *directory*

sort--Sort lines in a file.

sort -bdfnr *file*

-b Ignore spaces
-d Dictionary order (Upper case first)
-f Upper and lower cases together
-n The number at the beginning of the line.
-o Sort to an output file
-r Sort in reversed order.

spell--Checks the spelling in a file.

spell *file*

stty--Changes the terminal settings.

stty erase ^H Sets the Backspace key to delete.

telnet--Starts a telnet session with a remote computer.

telnet *address*

uname--Lists the type of UNIX, whether System V, Sun OS, or BSD.

vi--Starts the vi text editor with a file.

vi *file*

w--Displays a list of who is on system.

wc--Counts lines, words, and characters in a file.

wc *file*

Special Commands and Characters:

Redirection

< Routes input to command from file
> Routes output from command to file
>> Appends output to existing file
| Routes output between commands

Wildcards used in filenames

* Matches any number of characters
? Matches one character

Control codes

^s Suspends the screen display
^q Restarts suspended display
^d Signals end of file
^c Cancels a command
^z Suspends a process or job, use fg to start
^u Clears the command line
