

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 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*

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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

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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:

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jobs (continued)

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) (lzpr--enuxsa.eas.asu.edu)

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 -Fltra

-l Lists long format

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ls (continued)

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

more *file*

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*

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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 *pin*.

pwd

Displays absolute pathname of current directory.

rm

Permanently deletes a file.

rm file

To verify prior to removal

rm -i filermdir

Deletes an empty directory.

rm directory

To verify prior to removal:

rmdir -i directory

sort

Sort lines in a file.

sort -bdfnor 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

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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 the suspended display
- ^d** Signals end of file
- ^c** Cancels a command
- ^z** Suspends a process or job, use *fg* to start
- ^u** Clears the current line