



Workshop Learning Resource 11.c Using the command line terminal The basics of bash scripting

Overview:

This learning resource will give you information about how to get started using the command line in Linux

The command line can seem very daunting to someone new to Linux. First open a terminal by going to the Accessories menu. The best way to learn is by trying out some bash commands.

You have already used the `apt-get` command to install software:

apt-get – to fetch an Ubuntu/Debian package from the repositories on the internet. It is often used together with *install* :

```
sudo apt-get install vlc
```

fetch the vlc package and install it .

cd – change the current directory.

```
cd /home/john
```

navigate from the current directory to what ever the foldername you have typed in this case john's home directory

clear – clear all text from the terminal.

cp – copy a file/folder from one place to another

```
cp /home/john/myfile /home/john/Desktop
```

copies *myfile* in john's home directory to john's desktop

mv – move a file or folder from one place to another

```
mv /home/john/myfile /home/john/Desktop
```

moves *myfile* from john's home directory to john's desktop

mkdir – create new directory

```
mkdir /home/john/Desktop/Penguin
```

creates a directory called Penguin on john's desktop

rm – remove a file from a directory.

```
rm filename
```

rmdir – remove a directory

```
rmdir /home/john/Desktop/Penguin
```



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ls is a command which lists the contents of a directory.

```
ls /home/john/Desktop
```

You can separate commands with a semicolon

```
cd /home/john/Desktop;ls
```

This will change directory to john's desktop and list the contents of the desktop

You may need to make a .bin file executable so that you can install it. An example would be when installing java downloaded from the Sun website.

cd to the directory containing the .bin file.

```
sudo chmod a+x java-whatever.bin
```

Now you can execute the bin file

```
./java-whatever.bin
```

If you need to shut down the computer quickly

```
sudo halt
```

To reboot the computer

```
sudo reboot
```

For more info try:

http://www.linuxguide.it/command_line/

Conclusion: You have tried out some easy bash commands.