

Elements of the Command Line: Takeaways



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Syntax

- Listing the contents of a directory.
- Listing the non-hidden contents of the current directory without any options:

```
bash ls
```
- Listing the non-hidden contents of path `/home/dq` :

```
bash ls /home/dq
```
- Listing the non-hidden contents of the current directory in long format:

```
bash ls -l
```
- Listing all contents of the current directory:

```
bash ls -a
```
- Listing all contents of the current directory except for the directories `.` and `..` :

```
bash ls -A
```
- Listing all contents of `/home/dq` in long format, except for the directories `.` and `..` :

```
bash ls -Ap
```
- Changing directories:
- Change to directory `/home` :

```
bash cd /home
```
- Change to the parent directory of the current directory:

```
bash cd ..
```
- Change to the parent directory of the parent directory of the current directory:

```
bash cd ../..
```
- Change to your home directory:

```
bash cd
```
- Change your home directory:

```
bash cd ~
```
- Change to the home directory of user dq:

```
bash cd ~dq
```

- Change to the previous directory:

```
bash cd -
```

Concepts

- A **command** is a text instruction given to the computer. It commonly looks like `commands -options files` .
- Commands' behavior can be modified by the use of *options*.
- A **Shell, Command Language Interpreter** or **Command-line Interface** is a type of program that interprets and runs text commands. In this course we are using [Bash](#).
- A **Terminal Window, Terminal Emulator** or **Terminal** is a program that people can use to send input to the shell.
- Files are organized in a **hierarchical directory structure**, i.e., an organizational system for files and directories in which files and directories are contained in other directories.
- A **path** is a sequence of slashes and files and directories names that define the location of a file or directory.
- An **absolute path** is any path that starts with a slash and it tells us how to go from the root directory to the location of the the file specified by the path.
- All others paths are **relative paths** and they tell us how to go from the current directory to the location of the the file specified by the path.
- The **root directory** is defined by the path `/` and it is the only directory that isn't contained in any other directory.
- The **home directory** of user `<username>` is `/home/<username>` .

Resources

- [Ubiquitous options](#)
- [List of command language interpreters](#)
- [POSIX standards](#)
- [Windows Subsystem for Linux installation instructions](#)