

1 Unix Command Summary:

This is a brief description of the unix commands you should find most useful. The commands you will probably need most immediately are marked with a plus (+). The others are useful and/or illustrate how employing different options (called flags) can extend or change a command.

Not all unix commands have the exactly same function on different computers, so if you have a question about a command please consult the man pages (use “man commandname”) where there is a “complete” description for the command and its options for your computer. You can also obtain “hints” for the names of commands that you might be interested in by using man -k keyword, where keyword is a word you think might be associated with the command you are interested in... doesn’t always work, but it is the best first step to finding what you want.

For moving around directories, and finding files:

Command Syntax	Description/Usage
+ cd	Change directory to \$HOME
cd “directory”	Change to directory named “directory”
find . -name file-a -print	Find a file named file-a in any subdirectory, and print the location.
+ ls	Displays all files in directory.
+ ls -l	Displays all files in directory with file’s attributes (date created, read/write permissions, etc.)
ls -t	Displays all files in directory in time order (most recent file first)
+ ls -l file-a*	Displays attributes of ALL files that begin with “file-a”.
+ pwd	Displays present working directory.

For reading and writing files, creating and removing directories:

Command Syntax	Description/Usage
cat filename	Displays data in named file.
cat file-a file-b > file-c	Copies file-a and file-b to file-c.
+ cp file-a file-b	Copies file-a to file-b
+ grep value filename	Search for value in named file and displays lines of data containing value.
+ lpr filename	Prints named file to default printer.
lpq	Lists files printing on default printer.
lprm -	Removes ALL your files from print que.
+ mkdir	Make a directory.
+ more filename	Displays named file. If the entire screen is full, hit enter and additional lines will be displayed along with the percent value of the program displayed. Hit 'h' for more commands.
+ mv file-a file-b	Moves file-a to file-b. Will replace file-b, if it currently exists.
+ rm filename	Removes named file.
+ rmdir "directory"	Removes named directory. Cannot remove a directory until all files in that directory are removed.
tail filename	Displays last 10 lines of named file.
tail -1 filename	Displays last line of named file.
tail -r filename	Display file in reverse order (NOT available for Linux, try "tac"). Pipe it to more to read a file "backwards" (ie. tail -r filename more)

Various applications for editing files and reading email:

	Command Syntax	Description/Usage
	+ emacs filename	Edits named file using GNU editor called emacs. Very powerful and popular.
	emacs -nw filename	Edits a file using emacs in the same window that the program is started in. This is very useful if you are NOT on an xterminal.
	mail	Provides access to mail, and allows the user to compose and send email.
	+ pine	A menu-driven email program that is configurable and probably the easiest to use; recommended.
	vi filename	Edits named file using VI editor. Found on nearly every unix platform, but not as nice as emacs.

Commands for monitoring computer performance and other users:

	Command Syntax	Description/Usage
	top	Prints out a list of the heaviest users of CPU time. This should NOT be run continuously.
	+ w	Shows a list of all the users currently logged in.
	ps	Prints a list of your running processes.
	finger username	Gives a list of "username" processes, or alternatively, the time of their last login.

Commands for modifying your account and your shell (tcsh) environment:

Command Syntax	Description/Usage
+ passwd	Used to change passwords. The program prompts you to enter your old password. After you enter it, the program will prompt you to enter your new password. The password must be at least six characters and contain at least two alpha characters and 1 numeric value. After keying in the new password, the program will ask you to re-enter the new password for verification purposes.
+ printenv	Actually, a tcsh shell command (the most common shell for new users). Prints all environment variables. Good for checking what a variable like PATH (which is a list of directories your shell searches for executable programs) is set to.

2 Printer Usage:

Most applications have print options, and should be used before trying to print from a commandline. In the following table, a description of the Unix commands you should find most useful in viewing files, and printing those files when you must. Unfortunately, for various reasons, not all programs are available on all computers. Please ask for assistance if you're uncertain about your application.

If you wish to abort a print job already in progress (in most cases because it is taking an excessive amount of time), you must issue the "cancel" command from your terminal. You may also have to reset the printer. On the LaserJet III, this is done by taking the printer offline (by pushing the button on the printer marked "OnLine") and then pushing, and holding for about 5-10 sec the button marked "Reset". If this fails to clear the problem, seek assistance.

For viewing and printing Postscript and PDF files from an Xterminal:

Command Syntax	Description/Usage
+ acroread filename.pdf	A fully featured PDF file viewing program.
latex filename.tex	LaTeX program for processing tex document and creates an output file named "filename.dvi"
dvips filename.dvi	Converts a dvi file to postscript.
dvips -pp 1-5,10 filename.dvi	Converts pages 1-5 and page 10 from the the dvi file to a postscript file... This is particularly good for printing out a partial document.
+ gv filename.ps	A postscript file previewer.
lpr filename.ps	Prints named file to default printer. DO NOT send files directly to the printer, unless you know they are postscript files! Other files will probably not print, and cause alot of printer errors.
lpq	Lists files printing on default printer.
cancel	Removes your printjob from print queue.