

# Information Literacy

06

command line

Ian Piumarta

Faculty of Engineering, KUAS

# open a command line

Mac: open



Terminal.app

MobaXterm: click



MobaXterm icon

WSL: click



Debian or  Ubuntu icon

# the shell waits for you to type a command

```
ixany -imaxbel
-echoe -echok -echoctl -echoke

14/10/2020 09:47.01 /home/mobaxterm

-echoe -echok -echoctl -echoke

[2020-10-14 09:39.59] ~
[piumarta.DESKTOP-LTPREOB] >

piumarta@DESKTOP-LTPREOB: ~
piumarta@DESKTOP-LTPREOB:~$ pwd
/home/piumarta
piumarta@DESKTOP-LTPREOB:~$

File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
piumarta@ubuntu20:~$ pwd
/home/piumarta
piumarta@ubuntu20:~$
```

## the shell executes commands that you type

if you type a command wrong, the shell will tell you

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/piumarta
```

```
$ dwp
```

```
dwp: command not found
```

if a command is 'stuck', type `Control-C` to interrupt it

- hold down `Control` while typing `C`

## pwd tells you where you are

the `pwd` command **prints** the current **working directory**

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/piumarta
```

you are always working in one specific directory

path names are relative to the working directory

- unless they start with '/', making them *absolute* (i.e., relative to the root directory)

## cd changes the current working directory

```
$ cd /home
```

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home
```

cd without an argument changes to your home directory

```
$ cd
```

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/piumarta
```

## cd - goes back to the previous directory

```
$ cd -
```

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home
```

```
$ cd -
```

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/piumarta
```

```
$ cd -
```

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home
```

# ls lists information about files and directories

with no argument `ls` lists the current directory

```
$ ls
```

```
Desktop  LauncherFolder  MyDocuments
```

with an argument `ls` lists the given directory

```
$ ls /home
```

```
mobaxterm  piumarta
```



# options change the behaviour of commands

---

```
$ ls  
mobaxterm  piumarta
```

```
$ ls -a  
.  ..  mobaxterm  piumarta
```

*-a = list hidden files (start with '.')*

```
$ ls -l  
total 8  
drwxr-xr-x  1 piumarta UsersGrp  0 Oct 18 17:04 mobaxterm  
drwxr-xr-x  1 piumarta UsersGrp  0 Oct 18 17:04 piumarta
```

*-l = long format (information in inode)*

```
$ ls -F  
mobaxterm/  piumarta/
```

*-F = classify (folder/, executable\*)*

## common pattern: *command options arguments*

```
$ ls           -laF       /home /usr  
  ↑           ↑       ↑  
  command options arguments
```

spaces separate one item from the next

the number of spaces is not important

```
$ ls -laF /home /usr
```

## ~ stands for your home directory

```
$ ls ~  
Desktop  LauncherFolder  MyDocuments
```

you can use it as part of a longer file name

```
$ ls -F ~/..  
mobaxterm/  piumarta/
```

## mkdir creates directories

```
$ cd
$ mkdir temp
$ ls
Desktop  LauncherFolder  MyDocuments  temp
$ cd temp
$ pwd
/home/piumarta/temp
$ ls -la
total 4
drwxr-xr-x 1 piumarta Users 0 Oct 18 21:22 .
drwxr-xr-x 1 piumarta Users 0 Oct 18 21:22 ..
```

Q: 1-4

# cp copies files

```
$ pwd
/home/piumarta/temp
$ ls
$ cp /etc/hosts .
$ ls -l
-rw-r--r-- 1 piumarta Users 852 Oct 23 02:04 hosts
```

Q: 5

## > redirects output to a file, `cat` concatenates files

---

```
$ pwd
/home/piumarta/temp
$ ls -la > output
$ cat output
total 4
drwxr-xr-x 1 piumarta Users 0 Oct 22 21:43 .
drwxr-xr-x 1 piumarta Users 0 Oct 22 21:27 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 piumarta Users 0 Oct 22 21:43 output
```

why is `output` included in the output from `ls`?

why does `output` always appear empty in the listing?

Q: 6

# grep finds patterns in the contents of files

```
$ grep bash /etc/passwd
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
piumarta:x:501:20:Ian Piumarta:/home/piumarta:/bin/bash
$ ls /bin > list
$ grep bash list
bash
rbash
$ grep bash /etc/passwd list
/etc/passwd:root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
/etc/passwd:piumarta:x:....:/home/piumarta:/bin/bash
list:bash
list:rbash
```

## commands like `grep` can take input from the keyboard

```
$ grep secret  
find  
the  
secret  
secret  
word
```

*Control-C to terminate*

Q: 7



## < redirects input from a file

```
$ cat > words
```

```
find
```

```
the
```

```
secret
```

```
word
```

*Control-C to terminate*

```
$ grep secret < words
```

```
secret
```

## | pipes command output to another command's input

---

```
$ ls /bin | grep oo
```

```
chroot
```

```
fvwm-root.exe
```

```
nslookup
```

```
regtool.exe
```

```
VNCHooks.dll
```

```
xpmroot
```

compare: cmd1 > tmp followed by cmd2 < tmp

with: cmd1 | cmd2 (shorter, avoids the temporary file)

# wc counts characters, words, and lines

```
$ wc /etc/passwd
11   13 1065 /etc/passwd
$ wc
it was the best of times
it was the worst of times
2    12   51
```

*lines, words, characters, filename*  
*input from keyboard or pipe*

Q: 8–9

## a few simple commands make a powerful pipeline

there is no command to count the frequency of words

but you can easily make your own out of smaller commands

```
$ cat words
```

```
it was the best of times
```

```
it was the worst of times
```

```
$ tr ' ' '\012' < words | sort | uniq -c | sort -n
```

```
1 best
```

```
1 worst
```

```
2 it
```

```
2 of
```

```
2 the
```

```
2 times
```

```
2 was
```

*tr ' ' '\012' = transform spaces ( ' ) into newlines ('\012')*

*sort = sort input lines alphabetically*

*uniq -c = remove duplicates, print how many times each line is repeated*

*sort -n = sort input lines numerically*

Q: 10

## rm removes files, rmdir directories

```
$ cd
```

```
$ rmdir temp
```

```
rmdir: temp: Directory not empty
```

```
$ rm temp/* '*' matches any filename
```

```
$ rmdir temp
```

```
$ ls temp
```

```
ls: temp: No such file or directory
```

## rm removes files, rmdir directories

```
$ cd
```

```
$ rmdir temp
```

```
rmdir: temp: Directory not empty
```

```
$ rm temp/* '*' matches any filename
```

```
$ rmdir temp
```

```
$ ls temp
```

```
ls: temp: No such file or directory
```