

A Few Useful Linux commands

To open a terminal window on facility workstations:
Hold down the right mouse button on the wallpaper of the screen. The menu will appear. Select "Programs" and then select "Terminal".

Commands that can be used in the terminal window:

Note: .fid files are directories in UNIX

cd - change directory

>**cd**

goes back to the home directory

>**cd ..**

go up one directory to the parent directory

>**cd /net/inova6001**

for changing directories from one facility workstation to another facility workstation

compress - compress a file to take up less disk space

>**compress data.tar**

make a tar file (see tar command) from a .fid directory and then compress the data using this command. This results in a file like: data.tar.Z

to reverse the compression:

>**uncompress data.tar.Z**

cp - copy files

>**cp thisfile thatfile**

copies the contents of "thisfile" into a file called "thatfile"

>**cp -r directory1 directory2**

same thing only for directories

>**cp filename directory1/subdirectory1/**

copy a file into another directory's subdirectory

du - disk usage

>**du -k mydirectory**

Be in the parent directory of the directory to be checked.

Put in the username (usually the user's main directory) and

can check the usage on the whole account. Otherwise, also put in a subdirectory name and check the amount of disk space it takes up.

exit - exits the terminal window

>**exit**

ls - list files and directories

>ls

lists all of the files and subdirectories in the current directory

>ls -l

lists all of the files and subdirectories with dates and other info.

mkdir - make directory

>mkdir newdirectory

creates a new directory called "newdirectory"

more - used to display the contents of a file without editing mode

>more myfile

displays the text of the file, page ahead with the space bar

mv - move files

>mv file1 directory2/.

moves file1 into directory2 and calls it the same name(indicated by the period)

passwd - change the account password

>passwd

Terminal will prompt for the old password and the new password (twice). Use different cases and numbers in the password.

pwd - print working directory

>pwd

shows the current directory location

rm - remove files

>rm junkfile

removes a file to be deleted

>rm -r junkdirectory

>rm -r junk.fid

removes a directory

rmdir - remove directory

>rmdir directory3

>rmdir junk.fid

.fid files are actually directories and have to be removed this way

tar - tape archive - This command allows packing a directory into a "tar" file which acts like a single file. So, data can be stored as one directory, pack it into a tar file and move

it around like a single file. Then unpack it into the new location

>tar -cvf directoryname.tar directoryname

>tar -cvf data.fid.tar data.fid

Creates a .tar file from the directory, "directoryname"

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>tar -xvf directoryname.tar directoryname
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>tar -xvf data.fid.tar data.fid
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Extracts the .tar file back into a normal directory.

tcsh - changes the type of terminal to one that will allow actions like up arrow for the last command, an enhanced c-shell.