

Finding the terminal

Accessories->Terminal	The GUI way
Ctrl-Alt<⇧>	Emergency entry without GUI (might save you one day)

Exploring directories

pwd		Current directory
ls	ls <i>fi</i> *	Directory list (limit files with wildcard *)
cd <i>folder</i>		Change directory (cd .. to move up one directory)

Working with files

nano <i>file</i>		Edit file (with help listing included)
cp <i>file1 file2</i>		Copy existing <i>file1</i> into a new <i>file2</i> (both files then exist)
mv <i>file1 file2</i>		Renames existing <i>file1</i> as <i>file2</i> (<i>file1</i> no longer exists)
rm <i>file</i>		Remove (ie erase) existing <i>file</i> (it's permanent!!)
cat <i>file</i>		View contents of <i>file</i> (only useful for text files)
head <i>file</i>	head -N <i>file</i>	View first rows of <i>file</i> (or first <i>N</i> rows if <i>N</i> is specified); also tail for the opposite
more <i>file</i>	less	Examine <i>file</i> several rows at a time (more and less are similar)
wc <i>file</i>		Count lines, words, characters in a file

Working with directories

mkdir <i>newfolder</i>		Create new folder named <i>newfolder</i>
rmdir <i>folder</i>		Remove folder named <i>folder</i> (fails if not empty)
ls <i>path</i>		List <i>files</i> in folder <i>path</i>
cp <i>path/file newpath</i>		Copies existing <i>file</i> in folder <i>path</i> into a different (existing) folder

Repeating commands

<up arrow>		Repeat previous command (or continue back)
ctrl<r> <i>txt</i>		Reverse-search through recent commands (very useful!!)

Finding help

man <i>cmd</i>		Show manual for the command <i>cmd</i> (or <i>cmd --help</i>)
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Advanced options

>	ls -lt > <i>filename</i>	Redirect output to a file; must follow other command, be followed by file name
sort <i>filename</i>		
grep <i>pattern</i>		Search for a pattern, usually following command giving screen output
[vertical bar]	ls -lt more	Pipe command; must follow other command

The system

df	df -h	Show disk usage (human readable)
du <i>folder</i>		List all files in a folder, with their sizes
fdisk	sudo fdisk -l	Use -l argument; must be sudo
iwconfig		List network connections
lspci		List peripherals: hard drive, video card, audio card, ethernet, wireless (plus more)
free	free -h	Show memory (human readable)
lshw	sudo lshw -short	List hardware; best as superuser with short option

Advanced manipulation

sudo		Run a command requiring root privileges
sudo apt-get install		To install new software (must name the program)
cupsfiler <i>textfile</i> > <i>file.pdf</i>		Convert text to a pdf, piping to new file
scp		Remote copy (move file to or from a remote server)

Batch: create file with multiple command

chmod	chmod -R	Change permissions
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go to <http://www.richardcondit.org/workshops/CommandLine> for more information