

# Basic Linux/OS X Terminal Commands

Command	Description
<b>cat [filename]</b>	Display file's contents to the standard output device (usually a terminal window).
<b>cd</b>	Return to the \$HOME directory.
<b>cd /directorypath</b>	Change to directory.
<b>clear</b>	Clear a command line screen/window for a fresh start.
<b>cp [options] source destination</b>	Copy files and directories.
<b>grep [options] expression [filename]</b>	Search files or output for a particular expression.
<b>head [options] [filename]</b>	Display the first n lines of a file (the default is 10).
<b>less [options] [filename]</b>	View the contents of a file one page at a time.
<b>ls [options]</b>	List directory contents.
<b>man [command]</b>	Display the help information for the specified command.
<b>mkdir [options] [directory]</b>	Create a new directory.
<b>more [options] [filename]</b>	Another way to view the contents of a file one page at a time.
<b>mv [options] source destination</b>	Rename or move file(s) or directories.
<b>pwd</b>	Display the pathname for the current directory.
<b>rm [options] [filename]</b>	Remove (delete) file(s).
<b>rmdir [options] directory</b>	Delete directory (folder).
<b>tail [options] [filename]</b>	Display the last n lines of a file (the default is 10).

Get help on how to use a command and its available options.

**man [command]**

Find an expression in a file and write the lines containing the expression to another file:

**grep [options] expression [filename] > [newfilename]**