

Quick Linux reference

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Navigation

pwd – returns full path to current directory
. – current directory
.. – parent directory
cd /home/me99/mydata – change directory using absolute path
cd ../you66/yourdata – change data using relative path

Files

ls – list files in current directory
ls -l – list files with long description
ls Falcon*.mrc – list files with given pattern (* can be any letter or string of letters)
more foo.bar – scroll through a file with spacebar (see also **less**)
head -20 foo.bar – returns first 20 lines of file
tail -20 foo.bar – returns last 20 lines of file
cp foo1.bar foo2.bar – create a copy of foo1.bar and call it foo2.bar
mv foo1.bar foo2.bar – move foo1.bar to foo2.bar (i.e. rename)
mv foo1.bar /home/me99 – move foo1.bar to a directory
rm -i foo1.bar – delete foo1.bar permanently (-i option queries each delete)

Searching

find * -name foo.bar – search in current directory and all subdirectories for file
locate foo.bar – find file in filesystem; database may need updating with **updatedb**
grep “find.*me” foo.bar – find all lines in file containing both “find” and “me” in that order
history – list previous commands

Remote access

ssh -Y me99@faraway.ac.uk – connect to remote resources, with trusted X11 forwarding
scp me99@faraway.ac.uk:/home/me99/foo.bar . – copy file foo.bar on remote resource to current directory

Jobs

top – display list of processes, ordered according to CPU usage.
ps -f – show processes in this shell
ps -f -u me99 – show all processes on machine owned by user me99
kill -9 2773 – kill the process with id 2773.

Miscellaneous

man scp – show manual page for scp command