Basic Linux File Commands

A good Linux tutorial is available at: http://ee.surrey.ac.uk/Teaching/Unix

Command	Description

`cd dir1`
`cd ~/dir1/dir2`
`cd ..`
`cd`
	Change directory (go in to `dir1` which is located in the current dir)
	Go in to `dir2` in `dir1` in home (~ is shorthand for *home*)
	Go up to parent directory (e.g., from `~/dir1/dir2` to `~/dir1`)
	Go back to *home* (useful if you become lost)

`pwd`	Lost? Print Working Directory (display current location)

`ls`
`ls -lh`
`ls -lh file1 dirA`
`ls -lh dirA/*.dat`
	List content (names of files and directories) of current directory
	List in long form (dates, file sizes, names) current directory
	List in long form (dates, file sizes, names) specified files, directories …
	List in long form all files ending in `.dat` in directory `dirA`

`mkdir dirA`	Make directory named `dirA` (in the current directory)
`cp fileA fileB`	Copy (duplicate) a file (copy `fileA` to a new file `fileB`)

`mv fileC fileD`
`mv fileE dirA`
`mv fileF dirA/fileG`
	Rename a file (from `fileC` to `fileD`). Works for directories too.
	Move `fileE` in to sub-directory `dirA` (`dirA` must exist)
	Move `fileF` AND rename it all in one go (`dirA` must exist)

`rm fileH`	Delete (remove) a file (caution!!)
`rm -rf dir1`	Delete directory and all files (and other sub-dirs) in there (caution!!!!!)

`gzip bigfile`
 	
`gunzip bigfile.gz`
	Compress a file (becomes `bigfile.gz`) to make better use of disk-space. Text files usually compress well.
	Uncompress previously compressed file (becomes `bigfile`).

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Command	Description
`less file1` `zless file2.gz`	Display the content of `file1` (text file) a page at a time on screen. If you've compressed `file2` with `gzip`, no need to uncompress first. Press `space` to page down through a long file Press `return` to scroll down a line at a time Press `b` to scroll back up a page Press `G` to go to end of file Press `q` to quit/exit
`cat file1` `zcat file2.gz`	Dump entire file to screen (a quick way to look at text files). If you've compress `file2` with `gzip`, no need to uncompress first.
`gedit file1`	Edit `file1` using a simple graphical text editor (similar to notepad on Windows). See later for more on opening graphical programs on the CSF so that they display a window on your computer.
`file filenameA`	Try to tell us what type of data is in `filenameA`. Useful to determine the output of some program where you are not sure what type of output it has generated. For example: `file output.dat` Might be `ASCII text` (so we can look at it with `less` or `gedit`) or might be `data` (you'll need some other program to read it)
`du -sh .`	How much disk space is current directory (all files and subdirs) using?
`df -h .`	How much free space is there in the current area?