

useful UNIX commands for Oracle users

beginning notes:

- **remember:** UNIX is **case-sensitive!**
- nrs-labs is an HSU computer that can access Oracle; you will be using the Oracle database `student` accessible from nrs-labs this semester. (NOTE: this may CHANGE during the semester, however; if/when this happens, I will let you know what you need to do to access the new Oracle database.) Either way, you will use `ssh` to **connect** to nrs-labs to do much of the course work for this course.
- once you have logged onto nrs-labs, here is a collection of UNIX commands that you might find useful:

help-related commands:

<code>man <i>desired_command</i></code>	print the UNIX manual page for <i>desired_command</i> , if it exists
<code>apropos <i>string</i></code>	print names of UNIX commands followed by 1-line descriptions for commands whose 1-line descriptions contain <i>string</i>

directory-related commands:

<code>cd</code>	change directory; make the home directory the current working directory
<code>cd <i>directory_name</i></code>	change the current working directory to <i>directory_name</i>
<code>.</code>	a nickname for the current directory
<code>..</code>	a nickname for the parent of the current directory
<code>~<i>username</i></code>	a nickname for <i>username</i> 's current directory
<code>~</code>	a nickname for the current user's home directory
<code>pwd</code>	give the name of the current (present) working directory
<code>mkdir <i>directory_name</i></code>	make a new directory named <i>directory_name</i> within/under the current working directory
<code>rmdir <i>directory_name</i></code>	remove the directory <i>directory_name</i> within/under the current working directory; note that it must be empty for this to work
<code>ls</code>	list the contents of the current working directory
<code>ls -l</code>	...in "long" format, including file permissions
<code>ls -ld</code>	...including permissions and information for subdirectories instead of their contents
<code>ls <i>directory_name</i></code>	list the contents of the directory <i>directory_name</i>
<code>chmod 700 <i>directory_name</i></code>	protect the directory <i>directory_name</i> so that only you can read, write, or execute its contents. This should be used for homework and project directories.

file-related commands:

<code>cp filename newfilename</code>	create a copy of <i>filename</i> with the name <i>newfilename</i>
<code>cp f1 f2 f3 ... directory_name</code>	creates copies of files <i>f1, f2, f3, ...</i> (all that you care to list) in the directory <i>directory_name</i>
<code>mv filename newfilename</code>	change the name of the file <i>filename</i> to <i>newfilename</i>
<code>mv f1 f2 f3 ... directory_name</code>	moves files <i>f1, f2, f3, ...</i> (all that you care to list) to the directory <i>directory_name</i>
<code>rm filename</code>	remove the file <i>filename</i> (be careful - this cannot be undone!)
<code>chmod 600 filename</code>	protect the file <i>filename</i> - only you can read or write it
<code>more filename</code>	look at the contents of <i>filename</i> on-screen, one screen at a time
<code>cat filename</code>	look at the contents of <i>filename</i> on-screen, all at once
<code>nano filename</code> <code>vi filename</code> <code>emacs filename</code>	edit file <i>filename</i> (these are three different text editors available on nrs-labs)

commands and tips for stopping a UNIX process:

<code>^C</code>	(typing ctrl key and letter c at the same time) This can often be used to stop or kill a running UNIX command (a command running in the foreground). Useful if you accidentally type a command that does more than you want to see (e.g., when you don't want to see the rest of a man page)
<code>ps x</code>	gives information about currently-running processes that you own (even from other UNIX sessions). The name of each process is on the far right, and the process id of each process is in the first column. (Beware: the options for <code>ps</code> vary on different flavors of UNIX/Linux!)
<code>kill process_id</code> <code>kill -9 process_id</code>	stop, or kill, the process with process id <i>process_id</i> . I was always taught to try the version without -9 before trying the version with <code>-9</code> , because the former kills the process less "messily". This command is very useful to kill rogue sqlplus sessions if you start getting error messages about tables being locked!

other commands and etc.:

<code>sqlplus</code>	start up the Oracle SQL*Plus program on nrs-labs
<code>*</code>	UNIX wildcard character that matches any 0 or more characters. E.g., <code>ha*s</code> matches <code>has</code> , <code>ha3s</code> , <code>happiness</code> , etc.
<code>?</code>	UNIX wildcard character that matches any single character. E.g., <code>ha?s</code> matches <code>hams</code> , <code>ha3s</code> but does not match <code>has</code> , <code>haaas</code>
ESC key	in several UNIX shells (including nrs-labs' default shell), typing this key twice after you have started typing a file name will cause the shell to try to complete (fill in) the file name you have started typing, if it can. This is called filename completion .

<code>grep <i>pattern</i> *</code>	look for files in the current working directory that contain inside of them the <i>pattern</i> or letters <i>pattern</i>
<code>diff <i>file1</i> <i>file2</i></code>	compare the contents of <i>file1</i> and <i>file2</i> , and show any differences. If the two files are identical, nothing is returned.
<code>history</code>	show a list of the most recently-executed commands in this UNIX session
<code>!!</code>	redo the last UNIX command executed
<code>!<i>com</i></code>	redo the most recent UNIX command executed starting with the letters <i>com</i>
<code>!<i>-num</i></code>	redo the UNIX command executed <i>num</i> commands ago
<code>!<i>num</i></code>	redo the UNIX command numbered <i>num</i> in the history list
up-arrow key	lets you scroll through the commands in the history list
<code>quota</code>	lets you know how much of your disk space quota you are using. Note: how much you can store in your Oracle account is unrelated to how much you can store on nrs-labs! I can fill out a form to increase your nrs-labs quota (for a good, course-related reason) -- the form is usually processed within 48 hours. To increase how much you can store in your Oracle account (again, for a good, course-related reason), we have to contact HSU's Oracle database administrator.