

CHAPTER 10: Basic Linux Commands

Introduction:

The command line interface is still accessible in Bayanihan Linux despite the presence of a graphical interface (KDE) because it is frequently the easiest, fastest and most powerful way to perform many tasks. The Konsole, often referred to as a terminal or a shell, offers you a command line interface on your desktop environment. The Konsole is analogous to MS-DOS Prompt in Windows although it is more powerful and easy to use.

In this chapter, you will learn how to:

- Use the command line interface

Situation:

Your instructor said that Bayanihan Linux is powerful when used in the command line interface. She gave you the following instructions to be done in a Konsole:

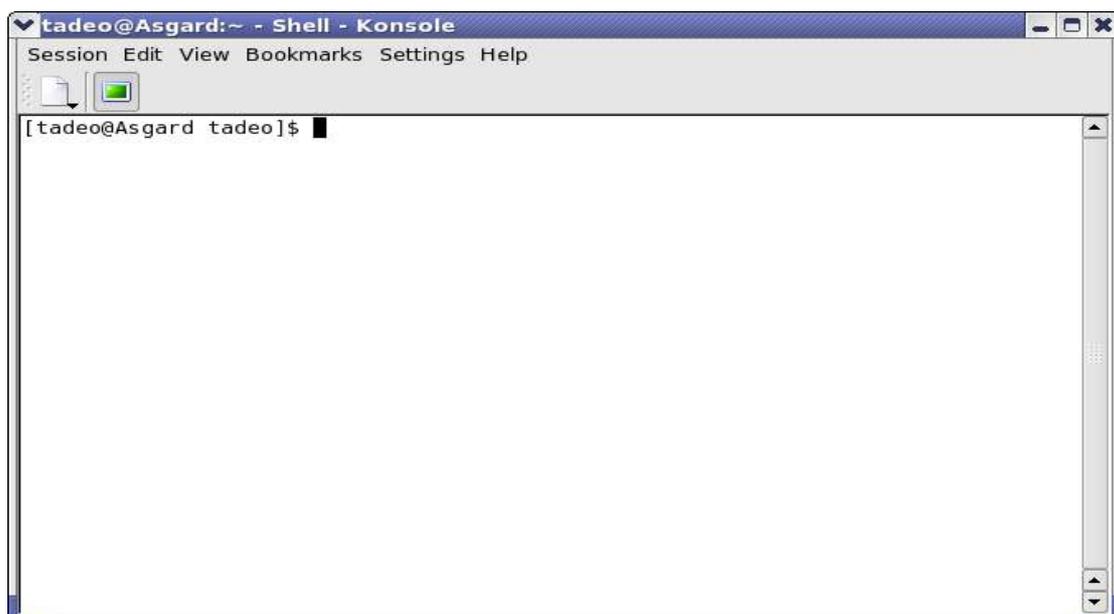
- create a simple text “test_file.txt”, use `cat >> <filename>`
- list contents of the current directory using `ls`
- create the directory “command_exercises” in the current directory, use `mkdir <directory_name>`
- copy “test_file.txt” in the directory “command_exercises”, use `cp <filename> <destination>`
- move “test_file.txt” to the “English” directory, use `mv <filename> <destination>`
- check for the man pages of the command used in copying files, use `man <command>`

Tasks:

1. Understand the basic Linux commands.
2. Use these commands in the command line interface.

Solution:

1. Open a Konsole, click on *Start Applications->System Tools->Terminal*.



On the main window, you will see the menu bar, the shell toolbar, and the shell where you will type the command you want to execute. [**tadeo@Asgard tadeo**] represents the user, tadeo, on computer Asgard in the current directory tadeo.

2. To create a simple text file which you will use as a test file, type

```
cat >> test_file.txt            Format: cat >> <filename>
```

Press enter to run the command. Then type:

```
This is a test file.  
I will use it in exploring the basic Linux commands.
```

Press CONTROL+c to terminate the command. This will save the file "test_file.txt" in the current directory. To check if the sentences you entered were saved type

```
cat test_file.txt                Format: cat <filename>
```

The shell will then display the contents of "test_file.txt"

```
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ cat >> test_file.txt  
This is a test file.  
I will use it in exploring the basic Linux commands.  
  
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ cat test_file.txt  
This is a test file.  
I will use it in exploring the basic Linux commands.  
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ █
```

3. Use "ls" to list files and directories. Type "ls" to see a list of the files and directories located in the current directory. Typing "ls" in your current directory will give you:

```
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ ls  
Computer  Filipino      Mail           Science  
Desktop   Home Economics Math           Social Studies  
English   Homeroom      Physical Education test_file.txt
```

4. To create a directory in the current directory, type

```
mkdir command_exercises        Format: mkdir <directory_name>
```

Type "ls" to check if the new directory has been created.

5. To copy "test_file.txt" in the new directory "command_exercises", type

```
cp test_file.txt command_exercises/  
Format: cp <filename> <destination>
```

6. Go to the `command_exercises` to check if “test_file.txt” was copied, type

```
cd command_exercises      Format: cd <directory>
```

This will make “command_exercises” your current directory. Type “ls” to check if the file has been copied in the “command_exercises” directory.

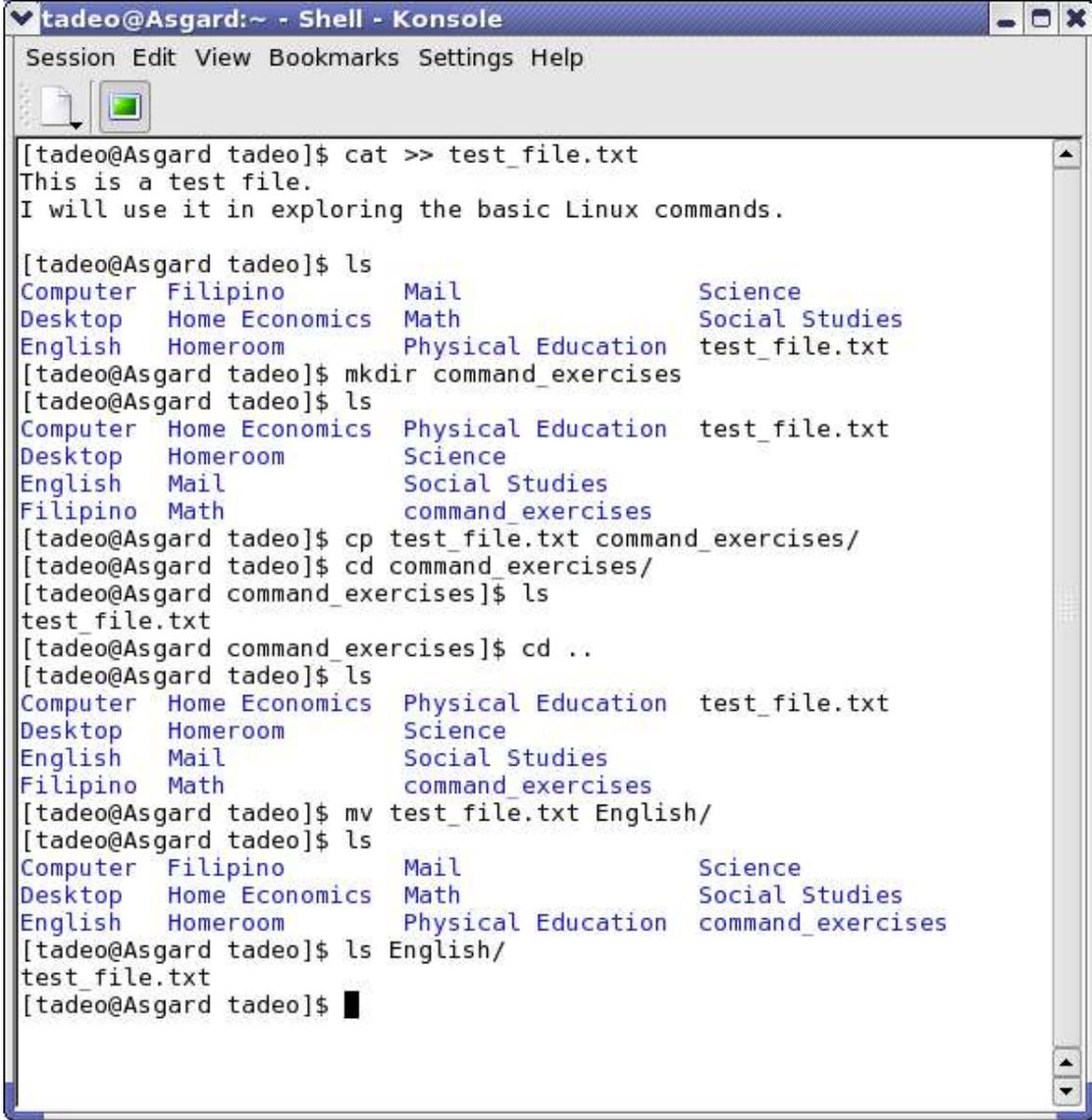
7. To move up one directory, use the command

```
cd ..
```

You are now back to your home directory.

8. To move “test_file.txt” to the “English” directory, type

```
mv test_file.txt English/
Format: mv <filename> <destination>
```



```
tadeo@Asgard:~ - Shell - Konsole
Session Edit View Bookmarks Settings Help

[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ cat >> test_file.txt
This is a test file.
I will use it in exploring the basic Linux commands.

[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ ls
Computer  Filipino      Mail          Science
Desktop  Home Economics Math          Social Studies
English   Homeroom     Physical Education test_file.txt

[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ mkdir command_exercises
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ ls
Computer  Home Economics Physical Education test_file.txt
Desktop  Homeroom      Science
English  Mail          Social Studies
Filipino Math          command_exercises

[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ cp test_file.txt command_exercises/
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ cd command_exercises/
[tadeo@Asgard command_exercises]$ ls
test_file.txt
[tadeo@Asgard command_exercises]$ cd ..
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ ls
Computer  Home Economics Physical Education test_file.txt
Desktop  Homeroom      Science
English  Mail          Social Studies
Filipino Math          command_exercises

[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ mv test_file.txt English/
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ ls
Computer  Filipino      Mail          Science
Desktop  Home Economics Math          Social Studies
English  Homeroom     Physical Education command_exercises

[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$ ls English/
test_file.txt
[tadeo@Asgard tadeo]$
```

9. You can also pull up information about a Linux command. Type

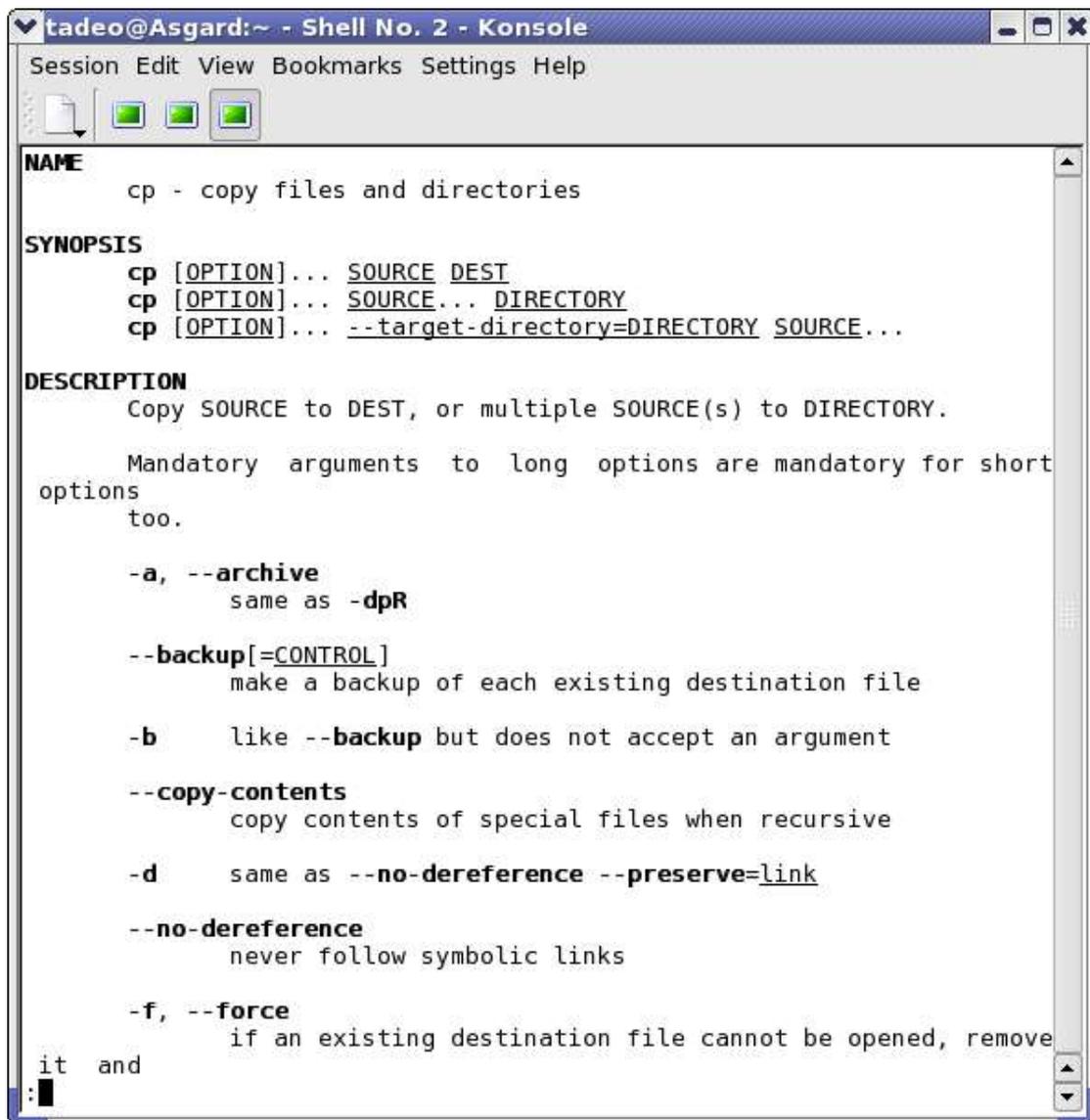
```
man cp
```

 Format: `man <command>`

to get detailed information about how to use the command. Key in

```
ESC : q
```

to exit the man page.



```
tadeo@Asgard:~ - Shell No. 2 - Konsole
Session Edit View Bookmarks Settings Help
NAME
cp - copy files and directories
SYNOPSIS
cp [OPTION]... SOURCE DEST
cp [OPTION]... SOURCE... DIRECTORY
cp [OPTION]... --target-directory=DIRECTORY SOURCE...
DESCRIPTION
Copy SOURCE to DEST, or multiple SOURCE(s) to DIRECTORY.
Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short
options
too.
-a, --archive
    same as -dpR
--backup[=CONTROL]
    make a backup of each existing destination file
-b
    like --backup but does not accept an argument
--copy-contents
    copy contents of special files when recursive
-d
    same as --no-dereference --preserve=link
--no-dereference
    never follow symbolic links
-f, --force
    if an existing destination file cannot be opened, remove
it and
:
```

Summary:

You are now able to:

- Use the command line interface.