TRIAGE UNIT
TOPIC 4 – WORKSHEET 1
BASIC LINUX CLI COMMANDS

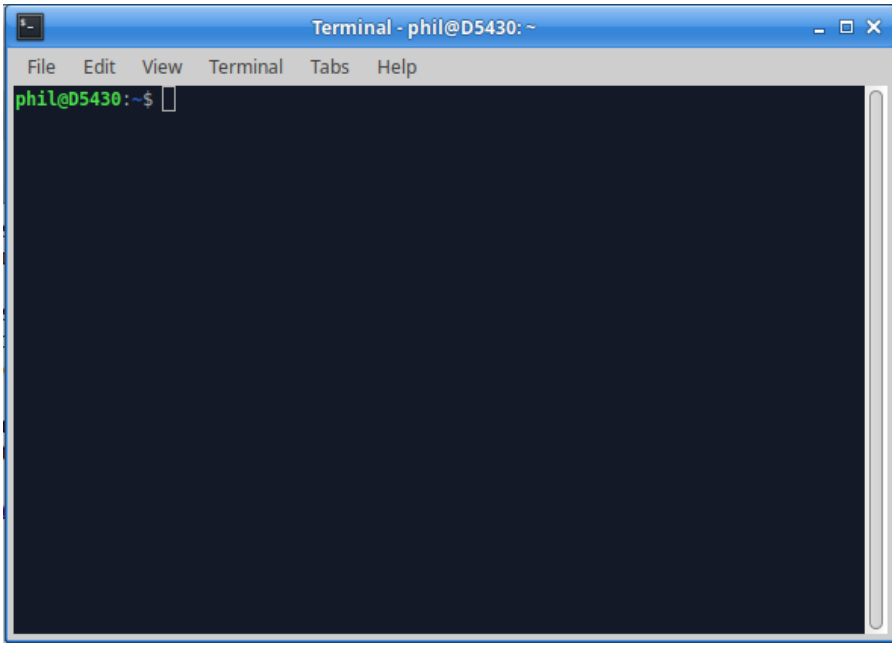
All computers running the Linux operating system have a command line interface (CLI) called a terminal. This command terminal is the most basic way to "talk to" your computer. You simply enter commands that can: give information, manipulate files, configure hardware, run programs and do everything your computer can do. This work sheet will show how to open a command terminal and get some basic information.

To open the command prompt, you can do one of the following on a computer running a Linux distribution:
1. At any time, either before or after you log into your account, you can press the **Ctrl + Alt + F1** keys, (in that order). A full screen command terminal will open. To return to the GUI (graphic user interface), just press the **Alt key + f7**. In fact, you can run up to 6 terminals at the same time by using **Ctrl + Alt + F1 thru F6** from the GUI. When you are in the terminal you can just press **Alt + the function key** to move to any terminal (no need to press **Ctrl**). You will need to log into your account in each terminal with your user name and password.

2. After the computer starts and you log into your account from the GUI logon screen press **Ctrl + Alt + t** – a command line terminal will open in a window. You will already be logged into your account.

3. After the computer starts and you log into your account from the GUI logon screen, find the terminal program in the applications menu (a command line terminal will open in a window). You will already be logged into your account. Different distributions of Linux use different GUI desktop environments. Gnome, Cinnamon, XFCE, KDE and MATE are just a few. Finding the terminal program will differ in each so you will need to explore how your desktop works.

Most CLI command screens will have a **prompt** that has: the logged in user's name, the name of the computer, a colon (:), the current directory and the dollar sign($), it should look something like this:



This image (on the right) shows my computer (D5430) and my user name (I'm Phil). I opened a command terminal window after I logged on. My "prompt".is the green text in the black terminal window.

<u>More prompt information</u>

- There is usually an "at sign" between the user name and the host (computer) name
- The tilde (~) sign represents the logged in user's home directory
- The ($) symbol represents a general user while the hash tag (#) is the symbol for the root or administrative user

Entering Commands:

If you logged into your computer at the GUI screen and have a terminal window (like the image above) start entering the following information commands. If you used the Ctrl + Alt + F1 combination, you will need to log in with your user name and password.

Click the terminal window to make sure it is active. Then type: **pwd**

What information appeared in the window? _____

Explanation: pwd stands for "Present Working Directory." When a user logs into his or her computer the terminal opens in the user's home directory. The home directory has a set of files and folders that belong to that user.

Are you in your account's home directory? (Yes or No) _____

List the files and folders in your home directory by typing: **ls**

If you are using a modern version of Ubuntu Linux the file list is color indexed. Blue names are folders or directories. List the directories that start with a "D"

_____

Here is a command that might seem useless, but it is not! Type: **echo "Hello World"**

What happened? _____

If you get tired of looking at a cluttered screen, type: **clear**

Was anything left on the screen? _____

When you are done with the terminal type: **exit**

What happened? _____

Extra Credit??

Lets create a text file with the echo command. Use " echo" to write a message (Hello World, like above or anything you want) and this time, redirect the output to a file with the (greater than) angle bracket (>), and give the file a name. It should look like this: **echo "Hello World" > filename**

Now display your file with the concatenate (cat) command, Type: **cat filename**

Were you able to create and display the file? _____. Now look at your file in a File Manager program. Right click on your file and select "Open." Did this work? _____. How might creating text files be useful? _____

_____

Now clean-up your mess by deleting your text file with the remove command: **rm filename**