Useful Unix Commands (Quick Reference)

Manual pages are great, but you have to know the command exists first! The list of commands below is a good place to start getting familiar with UNIX. Browsing through man pages with a tool like ***xman*** can also be beneficial. Visit the ***man*** pages of the following commands to learn more about each of them:

File Management

ls - List files
cd - Change directories
pwd - Print current (working) directory
mkdir - Make a new, empty directory
rmdir - Remove an empty directory
cp - Copy files
rm - Remove files
mv - Move files or directories
find - Find files or folders based on name, date, size, ownership or other parameters

Permissions

chown - Change ownership of files/directories
chgrp - Change group ownership of files/directories
chmod - Change permissions (mode) of files/directories
groups - Report the group(s) you belong to.
id - Report your username, userid, group(s) and group id(s).
newgrp - Set your default group for the current shell.

Resource Monitoring

w - See who is logged on and what they are doing
top - See the top resource-hungry processes
df - See how much disk space is free
du - Report numbers and sizes of files on disk

Printing

lpr - Send text or postscript files to the printer
lpq - View the print queue
lprm - Remove your print jobs

Job Control

which - Display the full path of commands
ps - View active processes
<ctrl>-z - Suspended the current job
bg - Put a suspended job in the background
fg - Bring a suspended job into the foreground
kill - Kill a process

Filtering/Reporting

grep - Search for substrings in a file or pipeline
sort - Sort lines alphabetically or numerically
wc - Count lines, words, characters
cat - Catalog a file or files
more - Terminal-based text viewing program
history - Access previous commands typed during the current session
man - Display the manual pages for a particular command
printenv - Print out a list of environment variables to the screen
setenv - Change or add an environment variable
set - Read and write variables in the Unix shell