Introduction

A shell is a program whose primary purpose is to read commands and run other programs.

This lesson uses Bash, the default shell in many implementations of Unix.

Programs can be run in Bash by entering commands at the command-line prompt.

The shell's main advantages are its high action-to-keystroke ratio, its support for automating repetitive tasks, and its capacity to access networked machines.

The shell's main disadvantages are its primarily textual nature and how cryptic its commands and operation can be.

Navigating Files and Directories

ls	list the contents of the current directory

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