Commonly used Unix/Linux commands

Files

- **ls** --- lists your files
  ls -l (NOT ls -1) --- lists your files in 'long format', which contains lots of useful information. There are many more options, for example to list files by size, by date, recursively etc.
- **more *filename*** --- shows the first part of a file, just as much as will fit on one screen. Just hit the space bar to see more or **q** to quit. You can use ***/pattern*** to search for a pattern.
- **vim *filename*** --- is an editor that lets you create and edit a file on Unix.
- **mv *filename1 filename2*** --- moves a file (i.e. gives it a different name, or moves it into a different directory (see below)
- **cp *filename1 filename2*** --- copies a file
- **rm *filename*** --- removes a file. It is wise to use the option rm -i, which will ask you for confirmation before actually deleting anything.
- **diff *filename1 filename2*** --- compares files, and shows where they differ
- **cat *filename*** --- views the file content
- **wc *filename*** --- tells you how many lines, words, and characters there are in a file
- **chmod *options filename*** --- lets you change the read, write, and execute permissions on your files.

Directories

Directories, like folders on a Windows, are used to group files together in a hierarchical structure.

- **mkdir *dirname*** --- make a new directory
- **cd *dirname*** --- change directory. You always start out in your 'home directory', and you can get back there by typing 'cd' without arguments. 'cd ..' will get you one level up from your current position.
- **pwd** --- tells you where you currently are.

Others

- **man *command*** – see the manual of the command
- **ps -u *yourusername*** --- lists your processes.
- **kill *PID*** --- kills (ends) the processes with the ID you gave.
- **who** --- tells you who's logged on, and where they're coming from.
- **w** --- tells you who's logged in, and what they're doing.
- **date** --- shows the current date and time.
- **cal** --- shows a calendar of the current month
- **grep *string filename(s)*** --- looks for the string in the files.
- **passwd** --- changes password
- **clear** --- clears the screen
- **last *yourusername*** --- lists your last logins.
- **uname –a** --- lists OS information

Tools or software

- **connect to Linux: ssh command, PuTTY, SSH secure shell-client**
- **transfer files: FileZilla, ftp command**