

[Why the Command
Line?](#)

[Comparing GNU
commands with DOS](#)

[Isn't it too slow?](#)

[How can I get help
with these commands?](#)

[What's the GNU,
anyway?](#)

[Some Things to Do](#)

[Being the System
Administrator](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This
Document](#)

GNU and Linux commands

About my favourite file manager
Linux for Teachers

Nick Urbanik <nicku@nicku.org>

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5, 6 December 2005

Outline

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU commands
with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these
commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System

Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Why the Command Line?

- ▶ Isn't that going back to the dark ages?
- ▶ Don't file managers make all that obsolete?
- ▶ Doesn't it take so much longer to type all those crazy commands?
- ▶ "Aren't you just telling us all this crap to waste our precious time we could spend learning something useful?"
- ▶ I'll tell you a secret

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Why the Command Line?

- ▶ Isn't that going back to the dark ages?
- ▶ Don't file managers make all that obsolete?
- ▶ Doesn't it take so much longer to type all those crazy commands?
- ▶ "Aren't you just telling us all this crap to waste our precious time we could spend learning something useful?"
- ▶ I'll tell you a secret

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Why the Command Line?

- ▶ Isn't that going back to the dark ages?
- ▶ Don't file managers make all that obsolete?
- ▶ Doesn't it take so much longer to type all those crazy commands?
- ▶ "Aren't you just telling us all this crap to waste our precious time we could spend learning something useful?"
- ▶ I'll tell you a secret

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Why the Command Line?

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

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- ▶ Don't file managers make all that obsolete?
- ▶ Doesn't it take so much longer to type all those crazy commands?
- ▶ "Aren't you just telling us all this crap to waste our precious time we could spend learning something useful?"
- ▶ I'll tell you a secret

Why the Command Line?

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

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- ▶ Don't file managers make all that obsolete?
- ▶ Doesn't it take so much longer to type all those crazy commands?
- ▶ "Aren't you just telling us all this crap to waste our precious time we could spend learning something useful?"
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My Dirty Secret

- ▶ You may be better with a file manager than I am
- ▶ you may have had more practice than I have. . .
- ▶ . . . because my favourite file manager is the command line
 - ▶ . . . keeps umbrella handy to protect against the expected shower of rotten tomatoes
- ▶ Still here? Hmm, okay, I'll tell you why.

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

My Dirty Secret

- ▶ You may be better with a file manager than I am
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 - ▶ ... keeps umbrella handy to protect against the expected shower of rotten tomatoes
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Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

My Dirty Secret

- ▶ You may be better with a file manager than I am
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- ▶ Still here? Hmm, okay, I'll tell you why.

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

My Dirty Secret

- ▶ You may be better with a file manager than I am
- ▶ you may have had more practice than I have. . .
- ▶ . . . because my favourite file manager is the command line
 - ▶ . . . keeps umbrella handy to protect against the expected shower of rotten tomatoes
- ▶ Still here? Hmm, okay, I'll tell you why.

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

My Dirty Secret

- ▶ You may be better with a file manager than I am
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Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Outline

GNU and Linux
commands

Nick Urbanik

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with
DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these
commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Advantages of the
Command Line

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Advantages of the Command Line

- ▶ Allows you to automate things
- ▶ Provides quick ways of getting at things similar to what you did before
- ▶ quicker than pulling down menus

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

[Why the Command
Line?](#)

**Comparing GNU
commands with DOS**

[Isn't it too slow?](#)

[How can I get help
with these commands?](#)

[What's the GNU,
anyway?](#)

[Some Things to Do](#)

[Being the System
Administrator](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This
Document](#)

- ▶ You are nearly as old as I am,
- ▶ so many of you are familiar with DOS commands.
- ▶ If you were just out of school, this comparison would be useless

[Why the Command
Line?](#)

[Comparing GNU
commands with DOS](#)

[Isn't it too slow?](#)

[How can I get help
with these commands?](#)

[What's the GNU,
anyway?](#)

[Some Things to Do](#)

[Being the System
Administrator](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This
Document](#)

Action	GNU	DOS
list files (short)	<code>ls</code>	<code>dir /s</code>
list files (long)	<code>ls -l</code>	<code>dir</code>
copy files	<code>cp <sourcefile> ... <target></code>	<code>copy <sourcefile> <target></code>
move files	<code>mv <sourcefile> ... <target></code>	<code>move <sourcefile> <target></code>
rename files	<code>mv <sourcefile> <target></code>	<code>ren <sourcefile> <target></code>

[Why the Command Line?](#)

[Comparing GNU commands with DOS](#)

[Isn't it too slow?](#)

[How can I get help with these commands?](#)

[What's the GNU, anyway?](#)

[Some Things to Do](#)

[Being the System Administrator](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)

Action	GNU	DOS
change directory	<code>cd <dirname></code>	<code>cd <dirname></code>
make directory	<code>mkdir <dirname></code> ...	<code>md <dirname></code>
remove directory	<code>rmdir <dirname></code> ...	<code>rd <dirname></code>
show current directory	<code>pwd</code>	<code>cd</code>
show content of text file	<code>cat <file></code>	<code>type <file></code>

Doing it fast

- ▶ Bash shell provides command-line editing
 - ▶ Move: `Home`, `End`, `←`, `→`
 - ▶ Delete words: `Esc D`, `Esc Backspace`
 - ▶ Delete to end of line: `Control-k`
- ▶ tab completion
 - ▶ type the first few characters of a command, file, ... and press the `Tab` key: the shell will complete the name
- ▶ A history of previous commands
 - ▶ press `↑`, `↓`
- ▶ **R**reverse search through history
 - ▶ type any characters from a previous command and press `Control-R` repeatedly until you see the command you want

Why the Command Line?

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Outline

GNU and Linux
commands

Nick Urbanik

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Why the Command Line?
Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with
DOS

Isn't it too slow?
Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these
commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Doing it even faster with loops

- ▶ command line editing, tab-completion and history all make the command line fast...
- ▶ ... but the real speed comes with automation
- ▶ We can automate things with loops
- ▶ Here are the last few things I did with loops:
- ▶ **list PDF documents I wrote, with the number of pages:**

```
$ for i in *trans.pdf;do o="$(pdfinfo $i|egrep  
'^Pages:|^Author:|^Title:')";if echo $o| egrep -q  
'Author: +Nick';then echo $i;;echo "$o";fi;done ←
```
- ▶ **Set timestamp correctly in family photos:**

```
$ for i in 2005_09_11 2005_09_12 2005_09_13  
2005_09_14 2005_09_15 2005_09_16 2005_09_17  
2005_09_18;do pushd $i;pwd;exif-timestamp-adjust.pl  
*.jpg;popd;done ←
```
- ▶ **View all my teaching handouts:**

```
$ for i in *slides-beamer-handout.pdf;do xpdf $i&done  
←
```
- ▶ **Pretty-print my C++ programs:**

```
$ for i in *.cpp;do pretty-print-cpp $i| lpr;done ←
```
- ▶ **Make a hundreds table for my son:**

```
$ for ((i=1;i<=100;++i));do echo -n "$i "; if ((i %  
10 == 0));then echo '  
';else echo -n '& ';fi;done > hundreds-table.tex ←
```

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

How can I get help with these commands?

- ▶ A few commands are built into the `bash` shell; you can get help for these by typing `$ help` ←
- ▶ The other commands are in `/bin`, `/usr/bin`
- ▶ you can go there and have a look
- ▶ each one has a “*man page*”
- ▶ To read the page for `ls`, you can do `$ man ls` ←
- ▶ To search for `<word>` in the `man` page, type `/<word>`
- ▶ To quit, type: `(q)`

But where is the `woman` command? Isn't this sexist?

- ▶ “`man`” is short for “manual”

What's the GNU, anyway?

[Why the Command
Line?](#)

[Comparing GNU
commands with DOS](#)

[Isn't it too slow?](#)

[How can I get help
with these commands?](#)

**[What's the GNU,
anyway?](#)**

[Some Things to Do](#)

[Being the System
Administrator](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This
Document](#)



- ▶ GNU stands for “GNU’s Not Unix”
- ▶ It’s the project started by Richard Stallman
- ▶ Aims to provide all we need without contaminating our computers with non-free software
- ▶ Enables membership of the Church of Emacs.

Some things to do

- ▶ Write a `for` loop to count up to 100: `$ for ((i = 0; i <= 100; ++i));do echo $i;done ↵`
- ▶ See all the `man` pages for programs in `/bin`: `$ cd /bin; for i in *;do man $i;done ↵`
- ▶ Do the same thing for the commands in `/usr/bin`
- ▶ Note: pressing **Control-C** will interrupt a loop that gets stuck going “forever”

[Why the Command Line?](#)

[Comparing GNU commands with DOS](#)

[Isn't it too slow?](#)

[How can I get help with these commands?](#)

[What's the GNU, anyway?](#)

[Some Things to Do](#)

[Being the System Administrator](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)

Being the system administrator

- ▶ You write to anything under your home directory, or in `/tmp` with your own account
- ▶ ... but to write anywhere else, you need to be the system administrator and have `root` access.
- ▶ I highly recommend that you use `sudo` to become the system administrator.
- ▶ To do that you can follow the separate guide available at <http://nicku.org/lpic102/lpic/general-linux-2/lab/sudo/sudo.pdf>

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Outline

GNU and Linux
commands

Nick Urbanik

Why the Command Line?
 Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with
DOS

Isn't it too slow?
 Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these
commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Getting more software

- ▶ You can use `yum` to install new software
- ▶ You can become `root` by either:
 - ▶ using `sudo` ✓
 - ▶ ... or by typing `$ su - ↵` and then entering the `root` password ✗
- ▶ Then do: `$ sudo yum -y update ↵` or
`# yum -y update ↵`
- ▶ To install Blender, do:
`$ sudo yum -y install blender ↵`
- ▶ To install Scribus, do:
`$ sudo yum -y install scribus ↵`

[Why the Command
Line?](#)

[Comparing GNU
commands with DOS](#)

[Isn't it too slow?](#)

[How can I get help
with these commands?](#)

[What's the GNU,
anyway?](#)

[Some Things to Do](#)

[Being the System
Administrator](#)

[Getting more software](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This
Document](#)

Resources



Dr. Peter Salus.

The Daemon, the GNU & the Penguin.

Groklaw 2005.

[http://www.groklaw.net/staticpages/index.php?page=20051013231901859.](http://www.groklaw.net/staticpages/index.php?page=20051013231901859)



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Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

GNU and Linux
commands

Nick Urbanik

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

Topics Covered

Why the Command Line?

Advantages of the Command Line

Comparing GNU commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

Doing it even faster

How can I get help with these commands?

What's the GNU, anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System Administrator

Getting more software

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

Why the Command
Line?

Comparing GNU
commands with DOS

Isn't it too slow?

How can I get help
with these commands?

What's the GNU,
anyway?

Some Things to Do

Being the System
Administrator

Some Things to Read

License Of This
Document

License Of This Document

[Why the Command
Line?](#)

[Comparing GNU
commands with DOS](#)

[Isn't it too slow?](#)

[How can I get help
with these commands?](#)

[What's the GNU,
anyway?](#)

[Some Things to Do](#)

[Being the System
Administrator](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

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Document](#)

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