



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ARIZONA

# Introduction to Linux on HPC



UNIVERSITY INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Research Computing



Research Computing  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

# What Is UA HPC?

Provides free services for researchers that include:

- Large scale computing
- Data storage
- Consulting
- Training

Our compute clusters are Puma, Ocelote and ElGato

## Puma is a High Performance Cluster

- 320 compute nodes
- 30,000 cores
- 60 Nvidia V100 GPU's
- All-flash filesystem



# Opening a Terminal

- Mac: Go to Applications → Utilities → Terminal
- Windows: Download a terminal emulator
  - PuTTY: <https://www.putty.org>
  - Git BASH: <https://gitforwindows.org>
- Open OnDemand: <https://ood.hpc.arizona.edu/>



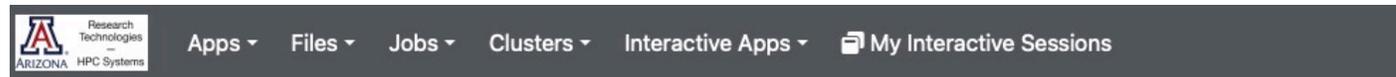
# Logging into HPC

- Request an Account Sponsored by a PI  
<https://public.confluence.arizona.edu/display/UAHPC/Account+Creation>
- Access Your Account  
<https://public.confluence.arizona.edu/display/UAHPC/System+Access>



# OnDemand GUI Interface

- Open **ood.hpc.arizona.edu** in your web browser and login with your NetID and password.
- From the “Clusters” drop-down menu choose which HPC cluster you would like to access:



Please NOTE: "windfall" jobs will be restarted or terminated without notice if pre-empted by a "standard" job

**OPEN**

## OnDemand

OnDemand provides an integrated, single access point for all of your HPC resources.

**Pinned Apps** A featured subset of [all available apps](#)



Abaqus GUI

System Installed  
App



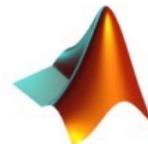
Ansys Workbench  
GUI

System Installed  
App



Mathematica GUI

System Installed  
App



Matlab GUI

System Installed  
App



# Command Line Interface

Laptop \$ ssh netid@hpc.arizona.edu  
This is a bastion host used to access the  
rest of the RT/HPC environment.  
Type "shell" to access the job submission hosts  
for all environments

-----  
[netid@gatekeeper ~]\$ shell  
Last login: Mon Nov 8 20:16:14 2021 from  
gatekeeper.hpc.arizona.edu  
\*\*\*

-----  
(puma) [netid@junonia 08:35:32 ~]\$

bastion

shell

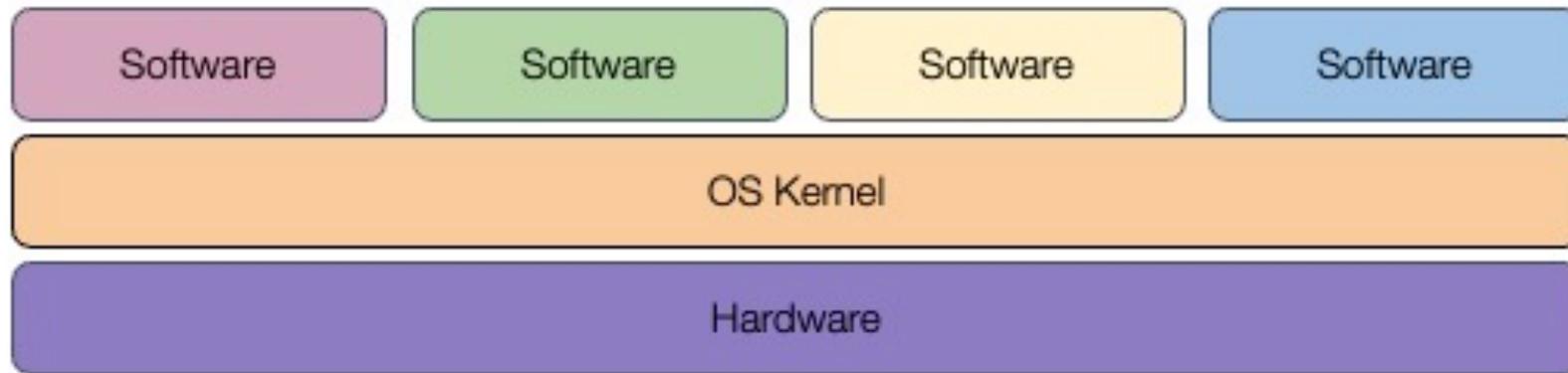
prompt



# What is Linux?



- Part of the Unix-like family of operating systems.
- Started in early '90s by Linus Torvalds.
- Typically refers only to the kernel with software from the GNU project and elsewhere layered on top to form a complete OS. Most is open source.



# What is Linux?

- Several distributions are available from enterprise-grade, like RHEL or SUSE, to more workstation-focused like Ubuntu.
- Runs on everything from embedded systems to supercomputers.



LINUX DISTRIBUTIONS

# Why use Linux?

- Default operating system on virtually all HPC systems and the foundation for many business services globally
- Extremely flexible
- Fast and powerful
- Frequently open source and free
- Many tools for software development



LINUX DISTRIBUTIONS

# Anatomy of a Linux Command



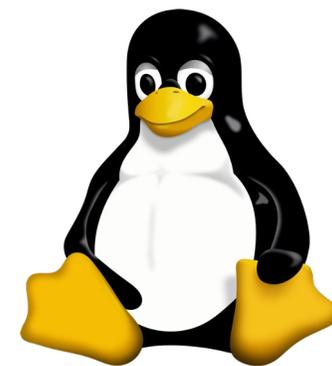
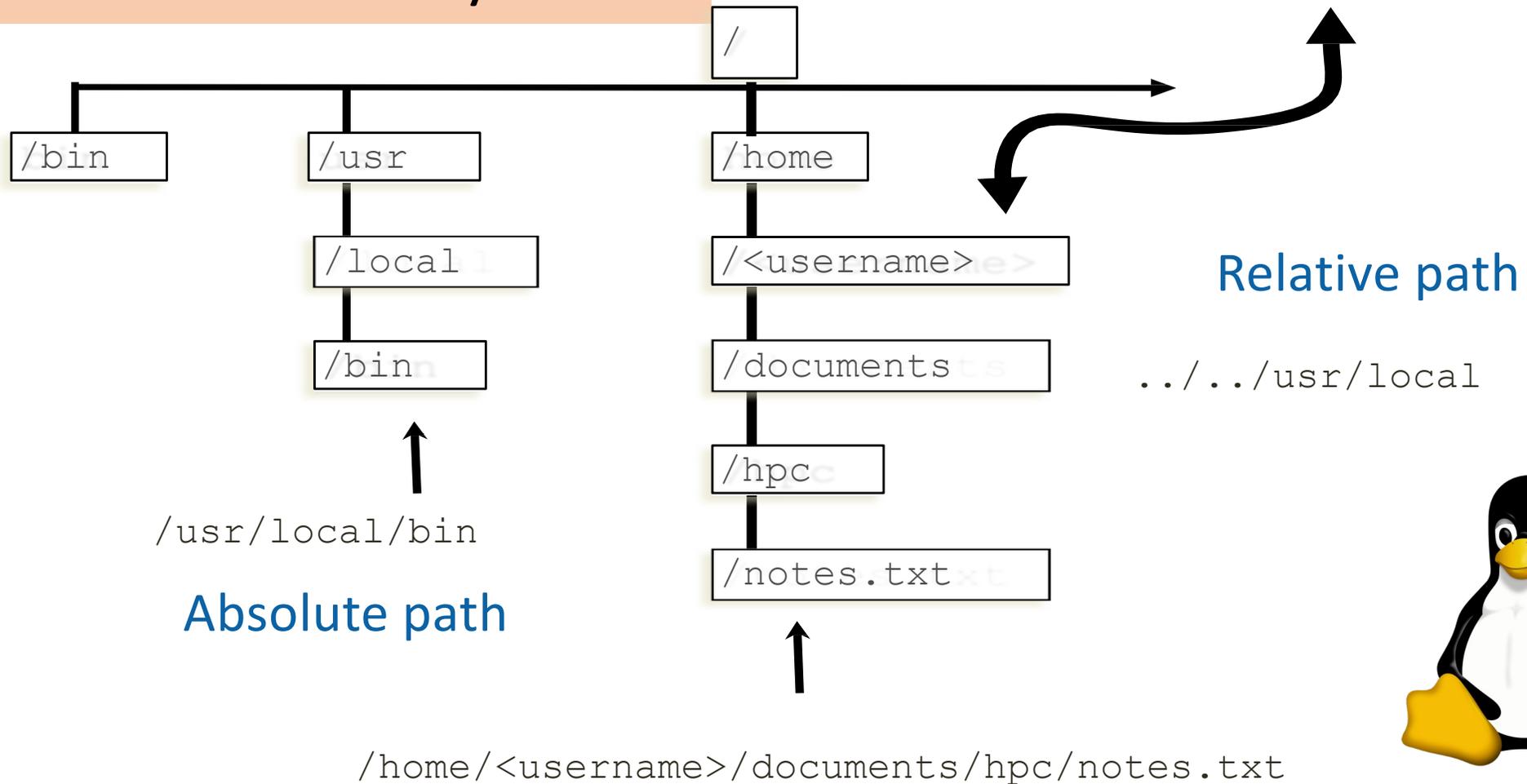
- command [flags] [target(s)]  
`ls -l myworkdir`
  - A long list of directory called myworkdir
  - A directory is a collection of files
- Case is important!
- Help on commands is available through the “man” command (short for manual)  
`man ls`

# The Linux Filesystem

- System of arranging files on disk
- Consists of directories (folders) that can contain files or directories
- Levels in file paths separated by forward slashes:  
e.g. `/home/user/scripts/analyze_data.sh`
- Case-sensitive; spaces in names discouraged
- Some shorthand:
  - `.` (the current directory)
  - `..` (the directory one level above)
  - `~` (home directory)
  - `-` (previous directory, when used with `cd`)



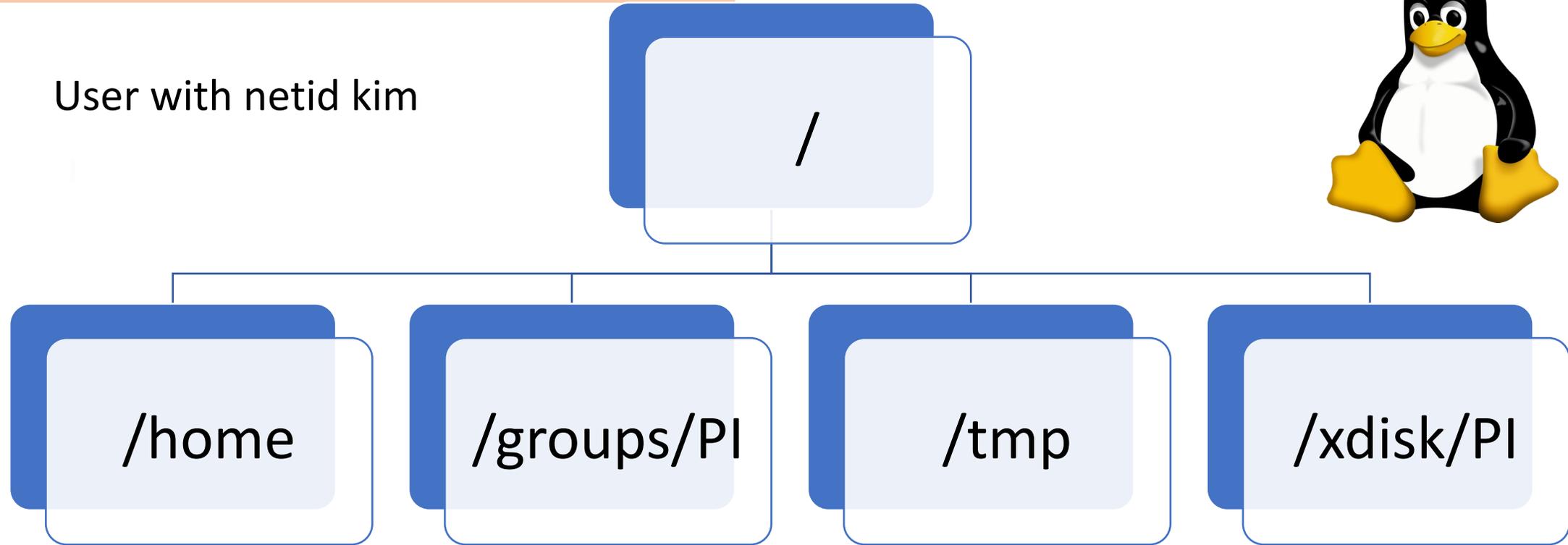
# The Linux Filesystem



# The Filesystems on HPC



User with netid kim



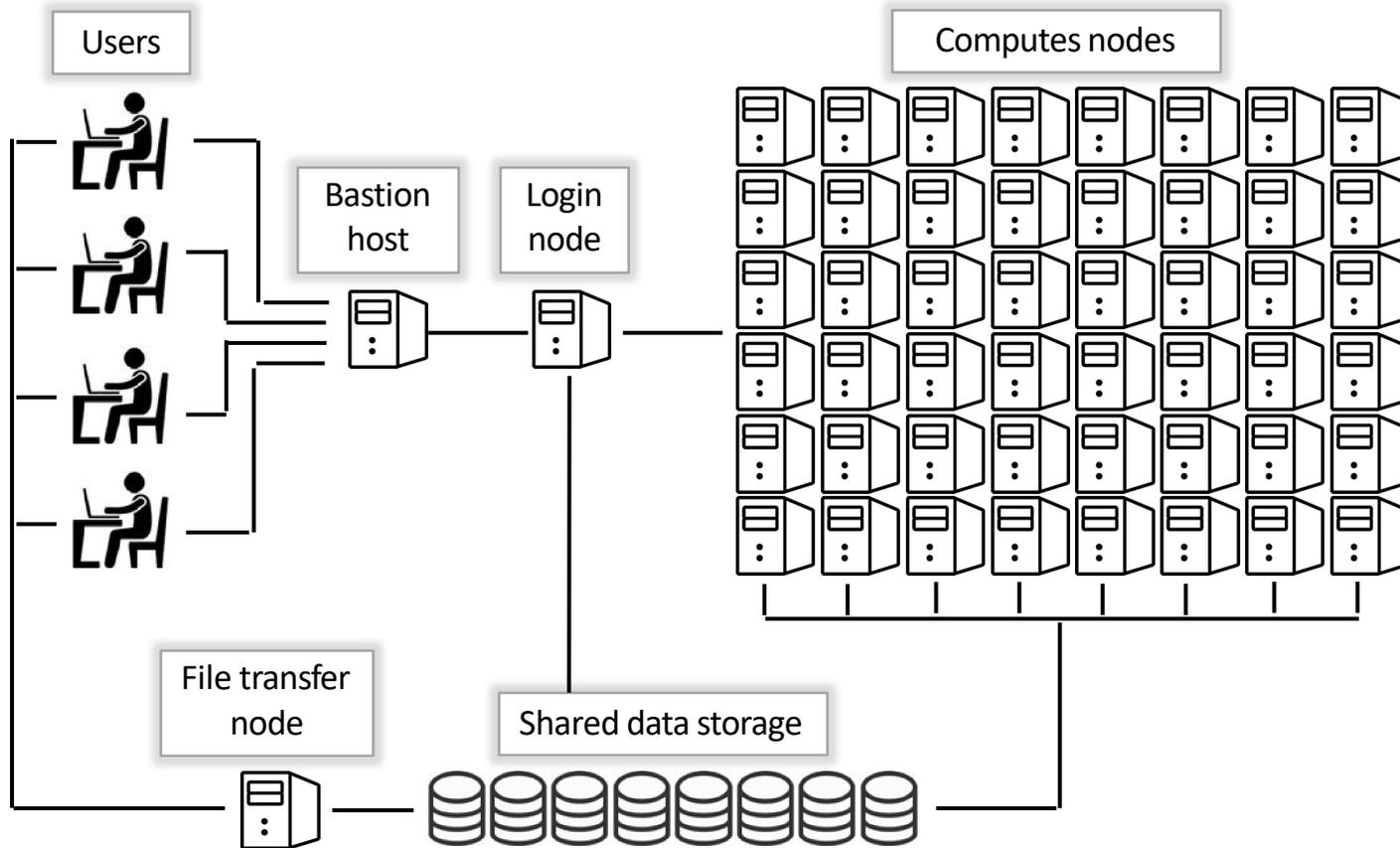
```
[kim@r3u13n1 kim]$ cd /groups/PI
```

```
[kim@i5n5 kim]$ cd /xdisk/PI
```

```
(puma)[kim@junonia time ~]$ pwd  
home/u13/kim
```

```
[kim@cpu38 kim]$ cd /tmp
```

# Where Filesystems are Mounted



Bastion host

- Nothing here

Login node

- /home
- /groups/PI
- /xdisk/PI

Compute nodes

- /home
- /groups/PI
- /xdisk/PI
- /tmp

File transfer node

- /rental/PI

Linux jargon: mounted means accessible

# Environment Variables



- Environment variables are important for Linux users and programs
- Type `env` to see your currently set up environment variables
- Useful environment variables:

<code>PATH</code>	directories to search for commands
<code>HOME</code>	home directory
<code>PWD</code>	current working directory
<code>USER</code>	username
<code>LD_LIBRARY_PATH</code>	directories to search for dynamically-loaded libraries

# File and Directory Commands



**pwd** – prints full path to current directory

**cd** – changes directory; can use full or relative path as target

**mkdir** – creates a subdirectory in the current directory

**touch** – creates an empty file

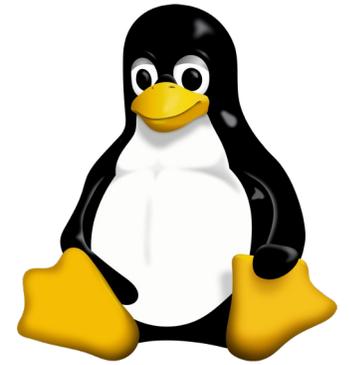
**rm** – removes a file (rm -r removes a directory and all of its contents)

**cp** – copies a file

**mv** – moves (or renames) a file or directory

**ls** – lists the contents of a directory (ls -l gives detailed listing)

# File Viewing Commands



**less** – displays a file one screen at a time

**cat** – prints entire file to the screen

**head** – prints the first few lines of a file

**grep** – prints lines containing a string or other regular expression

```
ps -ef | grep xx
```

**diff** – shows differences between two files

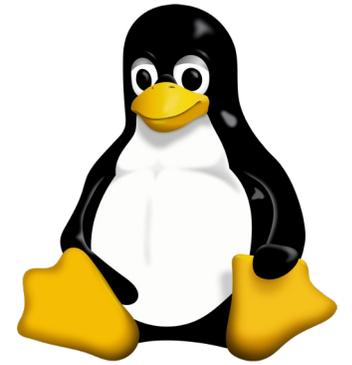
**tail** – prints the last few lines (with -f in real-time the end of a file that may be changing)

**sort** – sorts lines in a file

**find** – searches for files that meet specified criteria

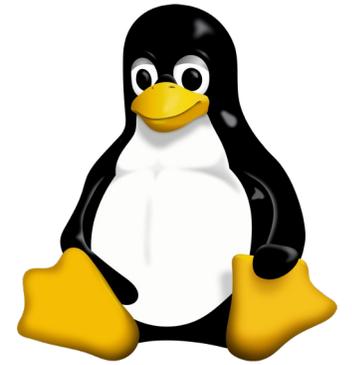
**wc** – count words, lines, or characters in a file

# Exercise 1: Navigation



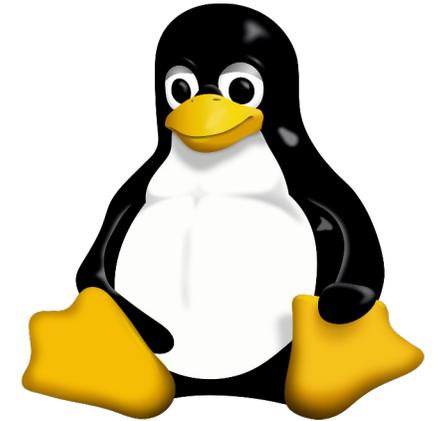
1. Sign-in to your account
2. Print the path to your current directory
3. List the contents of this directory
4. From your home directory create a new directory. How can you be sure the new directory is there?
5. Change to your new directory and create a file.
6. Remove the file you just created.

# Access the example scripts



- How to get there: [github.com/ResearchComputing/Supercomputing\\_Spinup](https://github.com/ResearchComputing/Supercomputing_Spinup)
- From home, create a “linux” directory
- Change to this directory for the exercises
- Git clone the repository:  
`git clone https://github.com/ResearchComputing/Supercomputing_Spinup.git`

# Exercise 2: File Viewing



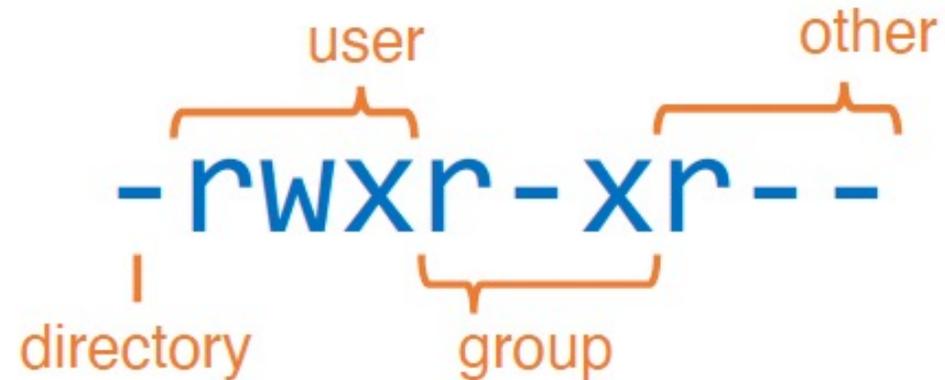
1. First change to the Supercomputing\_Spinup directory  
Hint: try tab complete
2. Change to the “`linux_bash_spinup/scripts`” directory
3. Print out the entire “`test.sh`” file
4. Print out the last 3 lines of “`local_vs_global.sh`” file
5. Find how many words are in “`case_example.sh`”

# Modes aka Permissions



```
drwxrwsr-x  2 sarawillis chrisreidy  3072 Nov  8 14:50 system-scripts
-rw-r--r--  1 baylyd      chrisreidy    0 Oct 18 2021 test
```

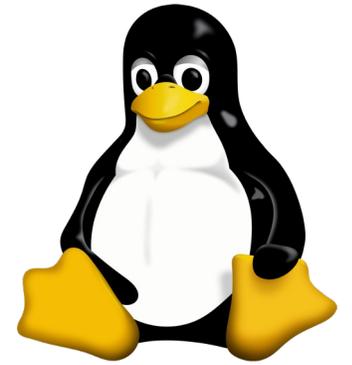
- 3 classes of users:
  - User (u) aka “owner”
  - Group (g)
  - Other (o)
- 3 types of permissions:
  - Read (r)
  - Write (w)
  - Execute (x)



## Note:

- One is a file, the other is a directory
- The first name is the owner
- The second name is the group

# Modes aka Permissions



```
-rw-r--r-- 1 baylyd chrisreidy 0 Oct 18 2021 test
```

`chmod` changes mode

To add write and execute permissions for the group

`chmod g+wx test` or

`chmod 674 test`

```
-rw-rwxr-- 1 baylyd chrisreidy 0 Oct 18 2021 test
```

To remove read permission for all others

`chmod o-x test`

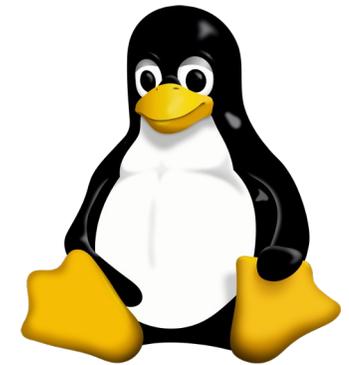
`chmod 670 test`

```
-rw-rwx--- 1 baylyd chrisreidy 0 Oct 18 2021 test
```

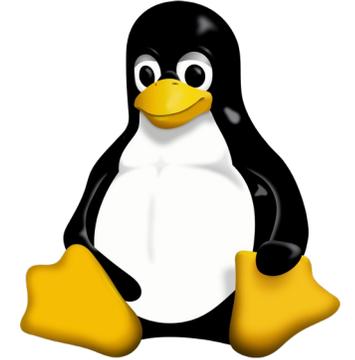
# File Types and Dots

```
drwxr-xr-x.  3 chrisreidy chrisreidy      2048 Feb 10 09:17 bayes
-rw-r--r--.  1 chrisreidy tmerritt      3579 Oct 23  2019 conda-bash.sh
drwxr-xr-x.  3 chrisreidy staff          512 Oct 22  2019 .anaconda
-rwxr-xr-x.  1 chrisreidy staff      121902 Dec 16  2020 nettest
```

- `ls` short list
- `ls -l` long list
- `ls -la` list hidden files also
- `cd ..` change to parent dir
- `cd ~` change to home dir



# Profiles



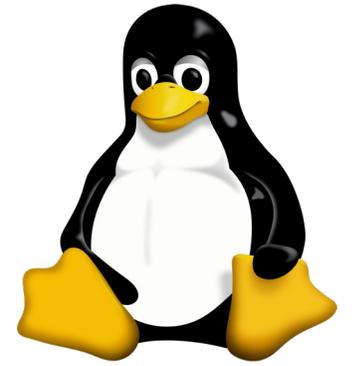
```
-rw-----. 1 chrisreidy staff 2574 Oct 22 2021 .bashrc
```

## Sample Lines

```
PATH="~/perl5/bin${PATH+:${PATH}}:$HOME/.local/bin"; export PATH;  
# Forces ~/.bashrc resource after cluster switch  
alias puma=". /usr/local/bin/slurm-selector.sh puma && source ~/.bashrc"  
#-# >>> conda initialize >>>  
# Python virtualenv  
# source ~/tflow/tensorflow_virtual_env/bin/activate
```

```
-rw-----. 1 chrisreidy staff 177 Aug 27 2020 .bash_profile  
-rw-----. 1 chrisreidy staff 21335 Feb 20 13:26 .bash_history
```

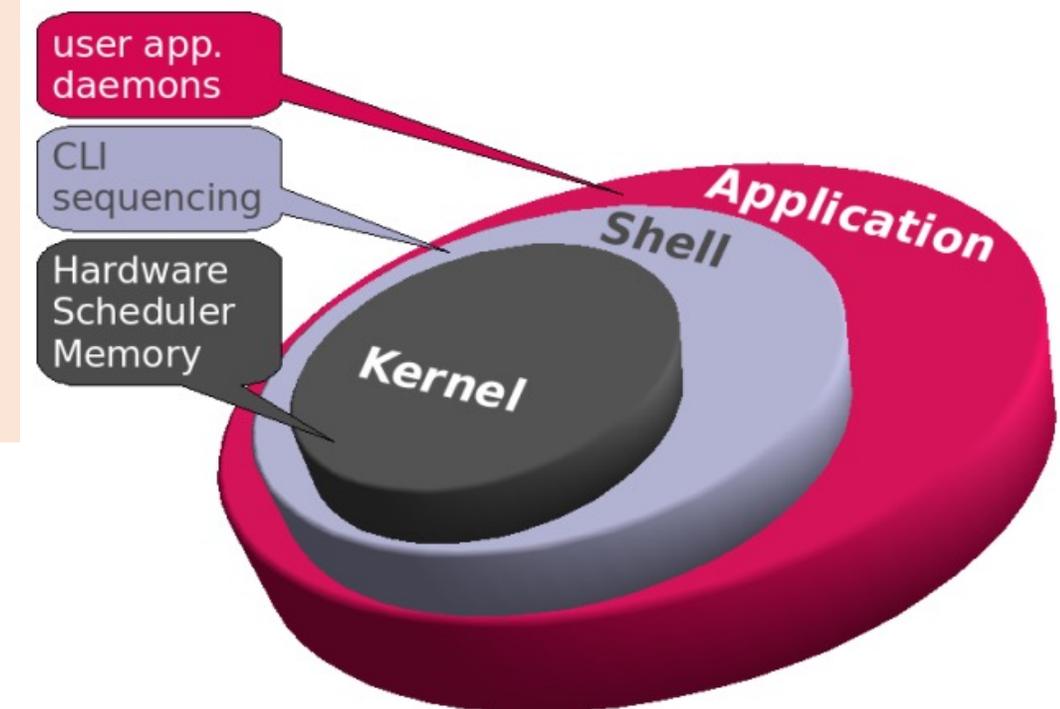
# Shells and Shell Scripts



A **shell** is the environment in which commands are interpreted in Linux.

On HPC we prefer bash (Bourne Again Shell)  
Other shells include: sh, csh, tcsh, ksh, zsh

**Shell scripts** are files containing collections of commands for Linux systems that can be executed as programs.

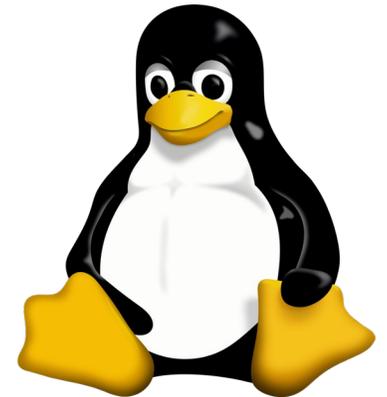


# Shells cont'd

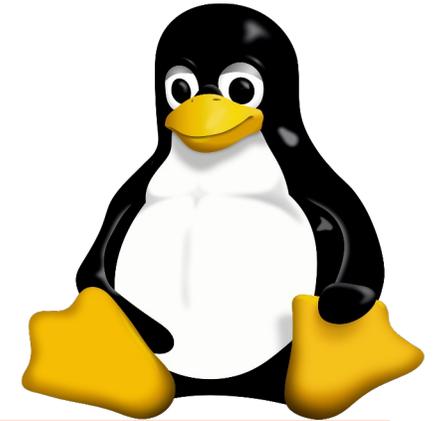
- ▶ Can be programmed interactively, directly on the terminal.
- ▶ It can also be programmed by script files. The first line of the file must contain `#!/bin/bash`
- ▶ The program loader recognizes the `#!` and will interpret the rest of the line (`/bin/bash`) as the interpreter program.
- ▶ If a line starts with `#`, it is a comment and is not run.

```
#!/bin/bash  
# the files in /tmp.  
cd /tmp  
ls
```

Shell to run  
Comments  
Change directories  
List everything in /tmp



# Exercise 3: Permissions and Running Bash Scripts



1. Ensure you are in the “scripts” directory
2. Use `less` to view the contents of `hello_world.txt`
3. Use `cat` to show the contents of `hello.sh` in `bash_spinup/scripts`
4. Try to run `hello.sh` by typing `./hello.sh` at the command line
5. Add execute permission to `hello.sh` using `chmod`
6. Try to run `hello.sh`

# File Editing – the easy way

Apps ▾ Files ▾ Jobs ▾ Clusters ▾ Interactive Apps ▾ My Interactive Sessions Help ▾ Logged in as chrisreidy Log Out

Home Directory  
/groups  
/xdisk

terminated without notice if pre-empted by a "standard" job in queue.

Open in Terminal New File New Directory Upload Download Copy/Move Delete

/ home / u13 / chrisreidy / Change directory Copy path

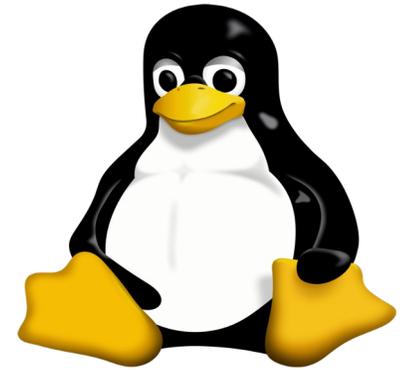
Show Owner/Mode Show Dotfiles Filter: Showing 86 of 189 rows - 0 rows selected

Type	Name	Size	Modified at
Folder	__pycache__	-	3/1/2022 2:20:49 PM
Folder	bayes	-	2/10/2023 9:17:14 AM
File	hostfile.txt	32 Bytes	2/19/2022 5:32:55 PM
File	i18n21new.list		9/19/2019 2:12:47 PM
File	i18n21rpm.list		9/19/2019 8:36:54 AM
File	index.html		9/14/2018 9:56:31 AM
File	input_tmp.in		10/10/2018 10:02:38 AM

- View
- Edit
- Rename
- Download
- Delete



# File Editing – command line



- **nano** – simple and intuitive to get started;
  - not very feature-rich;
  - keyboard driven
- **vi/vim** – universal; keyboard-driven;
  - powerful but has a learning curve
- **emacs** – keyboard or GUI versions;
  - helpful extensions for programmers;
  - well-documented
- **LibreOffice** – for WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get)

# Editing with Nano

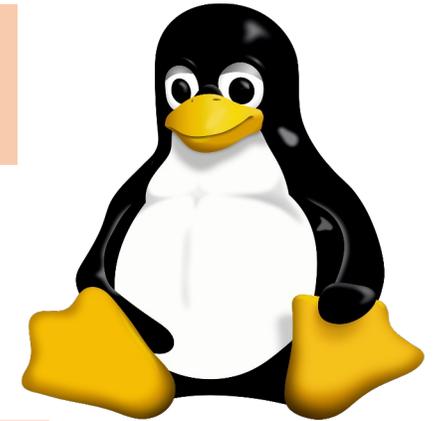
\$ nano trademarks.txt



```
GNU nano 2.3.1      File: trademarks.txt
MATLAB and Simulink are registered trademarks of The MathWorks, Inc.
Please see mathworks.com/trademarks for a list of additional trademarks.
Other product or brand names may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective h$

[ Read 3 lines (Warning: No write permission) ]
^G Get Help      ^O WriteOut     ^R Read File    ^Y Prev Page    ^K Cut Text     ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit          ^J Justify      ^W Where Is     ^V Next Page    ^U UnCut Text   ^T To Spell
```

# Exercise 4: File Editing with Nano



1. Edit the contents of `hello_world.txt` contents with `nano` (you can edit it to say anything!)
2. Run the program "`hello.sh`" by typing `bash hello.sh` or `./hello.sh` at the command line

# More Resources



Additional Bash learning resources:

<http://tldp.org/HOWTO/Bash-Prog-Intro-HOWTO.html> (general)

<https://www.shell-tips.com/2010/06/14/performing-math-calculation-in-bash/> (*math*)

Bash kernel for jupyter notebooks (*install anaconda first*):

[https://github.com/takluyver/bash\\_kernel](https://github.com/takluyver/bash_kernel)