Simon Fraser University
School of Engineering Science
ENSC351: Real Time and Embedded Systems
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Quicksheet of helpful Linux Commands

Useful Commands

Since the Linux environment provides a command line interface different from that of DOS or Windows, we have included some helpful commands here:

- `diff` : Compares two input text files and returns the differences between the two files.
- `grep` : Allows the user to try and find a specific character string in a specified search space (default working directory).
- kill : Used to "kill" a process [**Note: For processes that refuse to die, simply type `kill -9 <PID>`. The "-9" tells the O/S to kill the process with extreme prejudice.]
- `ls`: Returns the list of files in the current directory [**Note: The special case `ls –al` is often very useful as it returns **all** the files/directories (including hidden ones) and **lists** detailed information about each file/directory].
- `pidin` : Returns Process Identification Information.
- `ps` : Returns the processes currently running on the processor.
- `pwd` : Returns your Present Working Directory.
- `cd`: Used to change directories.
- `cp`: Used to copy files/directories.
- `rm`: Used to delete files/directories.
- `vi/vim/gvim` : A text editor available from the terminal command line (although Linux does provide a "gedit" text editor with which you may be more comfortable). A cheat sheet of common vi commands is available from the course web page (you can google for numerous other vi command references).

Remember you can combine commands by "piping them" using '`|`' or redirect the output from the terminal to a file using '>'. You can also obtain detailed information about a function and the supported flags (similar to the man pages in unix) via the "`use`" command. For example: `use diff`

Web Support

Linux is open source shareware so you can google for whatever you want.

Other Odds and Ends

BACKUP your work. Use some form of version control.