BASIC LINUX/UNIX COMMANDS

If you want to…	Command(s)	Actions
Log in	ssh uid@system	Log into 'system' with username 'uid'
Print current directory	pwd	
Change directory	cd mydir cd .. cd	Change to mydir folder Go up one directory Go to where you started
List the contents of a directory	ls mydir ls	List the contents of the mydir folder List the contents of the current folder
Make a directory	mkdir mydir	Create the mydir folder
Copy file/directory	cp myfile dest cp myfile . cp –r mydir dest	Copy file myfile to destination dest Copy file myfile to current location Copy folder mydir and all contents to dest
Move file/directory	mv myfile dest mv myfile . mv –r mydir dest	Move file myfile to destination dest Move file myfile to current location Move folder mydir and all contents to dest
Remove file/directory	rm myfile rm –r mydir	Remove file myfile Remove folder mydir (and all contents)
View a text file	cat myfile more myfile	View the whole file View page by page
Edit a text file	vi myfile	See below
Get help	<command> --help man <command>	Get syntax help on <command> Read manual on <command>
Log out	exit	

USING VI TO EDIT A TEXT FILE

Basic vi workflow is:

1. At the Linux prompt, type vi myfile to open the file myfile. (The file does not have to exist when the command is entered – it can be used to create new file.)
2. You will be in Command Mode. To enter Input Mode, type 'i' (lowercase, no quotes).
3. Once in Input Mode, you will see "-- INPUT --" at the bottom of the screen. You can now move about the document and delete or add content as you like.
4. To return to Command Mode, hit 'Esc'. In Command Mode, you can use a number of shortcut keys (see table below).
5. To exit the file, from Command Mode type ':x' to save and exit or ':q!' to exit without saving.

Action	Command Mode Key
Save	:w
Undo last action	u
Delete a line	dd
Copy a line	yy
Paste a line	p

More on Linux/Unix here: http://www.arc.vt.edu/resources/software/unix/
More on vi here: http://www.arc.vt.edu/resources/software/unix/editors.php