Command Help

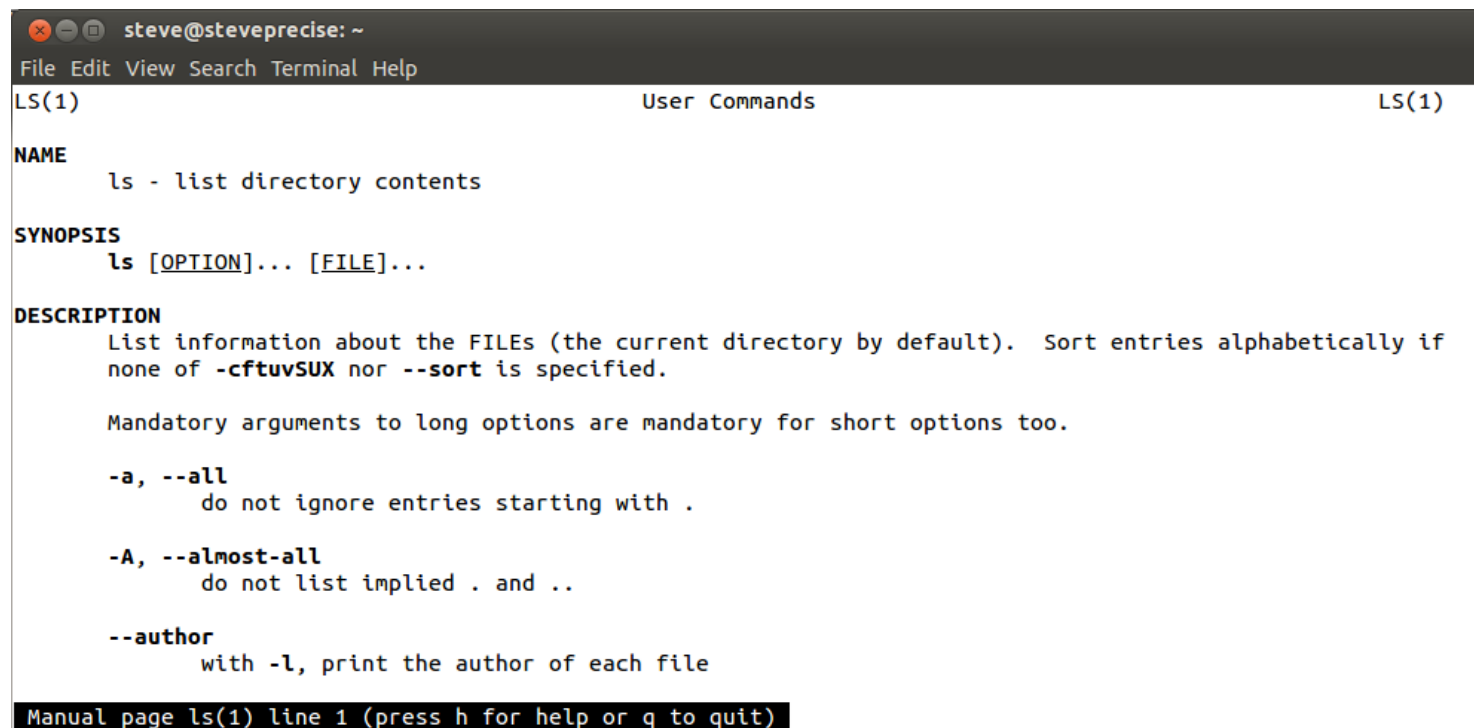CIS 2230 Linux System Administration

Lecture 4

Steve Ruegsegger

Review

- Linux prompt usually ends in what char?
- What command displays the contents of a file?
- What command prints/displays the files in a directory?
- What command deletes a file?
- How do you 'undelete/recover' a deleted file?
- What command copies a file or files?

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The ultimate help, man

- man – online manuals
- Unix (Linux) prides itself on having excellent online manuals for these small, specific, targeted commands
- Syntax: `$ man <command>`
- Example:
- `$ man ls`

```
steve@steveprecise: ~
File  Edit  View  Search  Terminal  Help
LS(1)                          User Commands                          LS(1)

NAME
       ls - list directory contents

SYNOPSIS
       ls [OPTION]... [FILE]...

DESCRIPTION
       List information about the FILEs (the current directory by default).  Sort entries alphabetically if
       none of -cftuvSUX nor --sort is specified.

       Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

       -a, --all
              do not ignore entries starting with .

       -A, --almost-all
              do not list implied . and ..

       --author
              with -l, print the author of each file

Manual page ls(1) line 1 (press h for help or q to quit)
```

Understand these parts!

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Understand $ man cp

3 different ways to use 'cp'

```
steve-r@srueg: ~
CP(1)                                       User Commands
  CP(1)


NAME
       cp - copy files and directories

SYNOPSIS
       cp [OPTION]... [-T] SOURCE DEST
       cp [OPTION]... SOURCE... DIRECTORY
       cp [OPTION]... -t DIRECTORY SOURCE...


DESCRIPTION
       Copy SOURCE to DEST, or multiple SOURCE(s) to DIRECTORY.

       Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

       -a, --archive
              same as -dR --preserve=all
```

Must have 2 and only 2 args (files)

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Section Numbers

- The number which follows the command in the man system is the section number

Manual sections

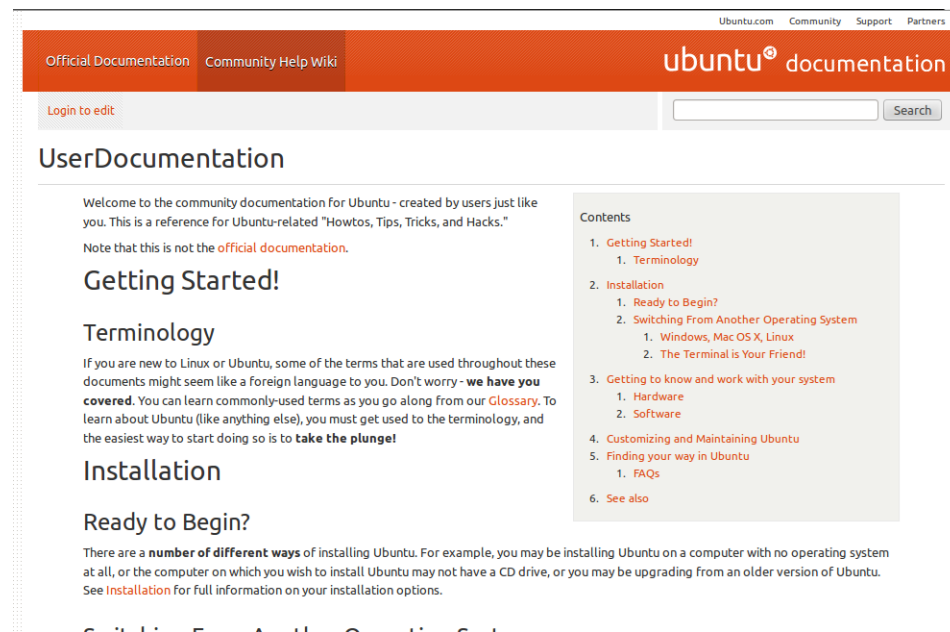The manual is generally split into eight numbered sections, organized as follows (on BSD, Unix and Linux):

Section	Description
1	General commands
2	System calls
3	Library functions, covering in particular the C standard library
4	Special files (usually devices, those found in /dev) and drivers
5	File formats and conventions
6	Games and screensavers
7	Miscellanea
8	System administration commands and daemons

Other helps

- `whatis` – display manual page descriptions
- `info` – read Info documents
- `which` – location of the command
- `whereis` - locate the binary, source, and manual page files for a command
- `apropos` - search the manual page names and descriptions
  - This is helpful when you don't remember the name of the command, but you can describe it's function

Other helps

- `/usr/doc` **or** `/usr/share/doc`
- LDP – Linux Documentation Project – www.linuxdoc.org
- Ubuntu documentation is excellent
  - manpages.ubuntu.com
  - help.ubuntu.com/community
- Google

Don't forget about TLCL