

IT 1100 : Introduction to Operating Systems

- Keyboard Shortcuts

Shortcuts You Should Know

Shortcut	Description
ctrl + c	cancel the current running action. Helpful when a command is running and you want it to stop.
ctrl + d	denote end of file (EOF) on standard input. Helpful when you have started a command that wants more input and is just waiting for you to enter it - but you do not know what it wants. logout / exit your ssh connection or terminal
ctrl + l	clear the screen
delete	delete current character
backspace	delete previous character
; (semicolon)	perform multiple, unrelated commands on a single line. For example ls; date;
tab key	auto-complete
up arrow	scroll through previous commands
history history -cw history less ctrl - R	display the command history clear the command history redirect the history command to the less command for better output navigation search history
!n	repeat the command on line n. For example !56 repeats command number 56
!!	repeat the previous command. Same as the up arrow.
!?<string>	repeat the most recent command that matches the string. For example !?cd

More Helpful Shortcuts

Moving the Cursor

Shortcut	Action

ctrl - a	Move cursor to the beginning of the line
ctrl - e	Move cursor to the end of the line
ctrl - f	Move cursor forward one character; same as the right arrow key
ctrl - b	Move cursor backward one character; same as the left arrow key
alt - f	Move cursor forward one word
alt - b	Move cursor backward one word
ctrl - l clear	Clear the screen

Modifying Text

Shortcut	Action
ctrl - d	Delete the character at the cursor location
ctrl - t	Transpose (exchange) the character at the cursor position with the one preceeding it.
alt - t	Transpose the word at the cursor location with the one preceding it
alt - l	Convert the characters from the cursor location to the end of the word to lowercase
alt - u	Convert the characters from the cursor location to the end of the word to uppercase

Cutting/Deleting and Pasting (Killing and Yanking)

Shortcut	Action
ctrl - k	Kill text from the cursor location to the end of line
ctrl - u	Kill text from the cursor location to the beginning of the line
alt - d	Kill text from the cursor location to the end of the current word
alt - backspace	Kill text from the cursor location to the beginning of the current word. If the cursor is at the beginning of a word, kill the previous word.
ctrl - y	Yank text from the kill-ring and insert it at the cursor location