

Spoken Tutorial

Working With Regular Files In Linux

Talk to a Teacher
National Mission on Education through ICT
<http://spoken-tutorial.org>

Script
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- Files and directories together form the Linux File System.
- In a previous spoken tutorial we have already seen how to work with directories. You can find the tutorial

http://spoken-tutorial.org/wiki/index.php/Linux_Spoken_Tutorial/Basic_Level_Tutorial_Set/File_System

- In this tutorial we will see how to handle regular files.



The cat command

We have already seen in another tutorial how we can create a file using cat command.

For details see :

[http://spoken-tutorial.org/wiki/index.php/
Linux_Spoken_Tutorial/Basic_Level_Tutorial_Set/
General_Purpose_Uilities_in_Linux](http://spoken-tutorial.org/wiki/index.php/Linux_Spoken_Tutorial/Basic_Level_Tutorial_Set/General_Purpose_Uilities_in_Linux)



The cp command

To copy a file from one place to another

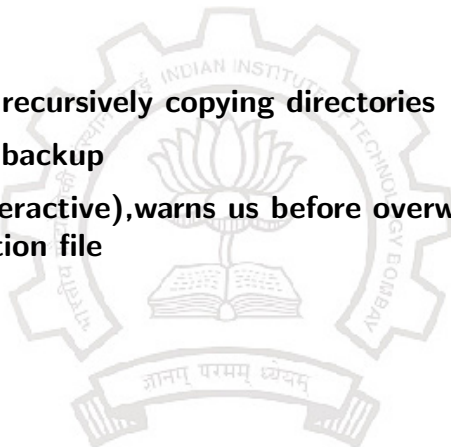
- **cp [OPTION]... SOURCE DEST**
- **cp [OPTION]... SOURCE... DIRECTORY**

It copies **SOURCE** to **DEST**, or multiple **SOURCE(s)** to **DIRECTORY**



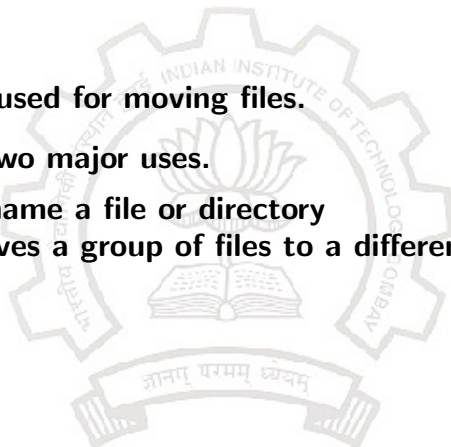
The cp command options

- **-R**: For recursively copying directories
- **-b**: For backup
- **-i** : (interactive), warns us before overwriting any destination file



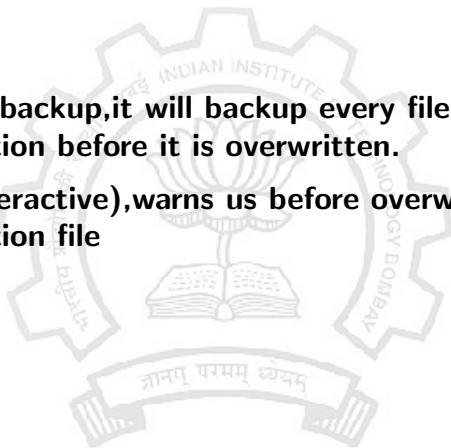
The mv command

- This is used for moving files.
- It has two major uses.
 - Rename a file or directory
 - Moves a group of files to a different directory.



The mv command options

- **-b**: For backup, it will backup every file in the destination before it is overwritten.
- **-i** : (interactive), warns us before overwriting any destination file



The rm command

- This command is used for deleting files.
- It can delete a single file as in
\$ rm /testdir/faq.txt
- or multiple files as in:
\$ rm abc1 abc2

Options

- -r
- -f



The cmp command

- Compares two files byte by byte.
- **\$ cmp file1 file2**
- If these two files have exactly same content then there would be no message. Only the prompt will be printed.
- If there are differences, then the location of the first mismatch will be printed on the terminal.



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- More information:
<http://spoken-tutorial.org/NMEICT-Intro>

