


Mac-Friendly Terminal Cheat Sheet

Command History

history n

Shows the stuff you've typed - add a number to limit to the last *n* items.

ctrl-r 

Interactively search through previously typed commands.

!searchtext

Execute the last command typed that starts with 'searchtext'.

!!

Execute the last command you typed.

command !*

Execute 'command' with the same parameters used previously.

tab 

Pressing tab will attempt to automatically complete the command you've begun typing.

Useful Commands

top 

Shows active processes. Press q to quit.

sudo command

Run a command as super user - type in your password when prompted.

open command

Opens a file as if you double clicked it.

find -name filename | xargs grep text

For file names matching 'filename', search their contents for 'text'.

screen

Amazingly useful screen manager: read the manual!

Emergencies

echo command 


This causes the terminal to print out 'command', showing you expansions:

```
g5:~ alex$ echo ls ~ $HOSTNAME
ls /Users/alex g5.local
```


reset

This resets the terminal's display, which is useful if it becomes corrupted somehow.


Text Shortcuts

ctrl-a 


Jump to the start of the line.

ctrl-e 

Jump to the end of the line.

ctrl-k 

Delete all text to the right of the cursor.

ctrl-y 

Paste text that you last deleted with these commands.

command !*

Execute 'command' with the same parameters used previously.

Process Control

ctrl-d

Sends end of file, will stop some processes that are waiting for an EOF.

ctrl-z

Stops the currently running command.

fg

Continues running the stopped command.

kill PID

Kills a process with an ID of 'PID'.

killall name

Kills a process called 'name'.

ps aux

Lists active processes.

Help Yourself

man command

Show the help for 'command'.

whatis command

Gives a one-line description of 'command'.

apropos string

Search the whatis database for 'string'.