

## COURSE GLOSSARY

# Introduction to Shell

**Shell:** A command-line interface that interprets typed commands and sends them to the operating system

**Command Prompt:** The indicator showing the shell is ready for the next command

**Filesystem:** The structure that organizes files and directories on a computer

**Absolute Path:** A full path starting from the root `/` that specifies a file's exact location

**Relative Path:** A path that specifies a file location starting from the current directory

**Home Directory (~):** The user's default workspace, represented by `~`.

**Current Working Directory:** The directory where the shell currently operates; shown by `pwd`

**cd command:** Changes the current working directory

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**Wildcards:** Pattern-matching symbols like `*`, `?`, and `{}` used to select groups of files

**Redirection (> <):** Uses `>` to send output to a file and `<` to use a file as command input

**Pipes (|):** Send the output of one command into another as input

**Environment Variable:** System-defined variable storing environment information, e.g. `HOME`, `USER`

**Shell Variable:** User-defined variable created within the shell session, e.g., `x=value`

**echo command:** Prints text or the value of variables

**cat command:** Displays or concatenates the contents of files

**head / tail command:** Show the first or last lines of a file; `-n` adjusts the number displayed

**cut command:** Extracts specific columns or fields from a file using delimiters

**grep command:** Searches for text patterns in files; supports flags like `-v`, `-n`, `-c`

**sort command:** Sorts lines alphabetically or numerically; `-r` reverses order

**uniq command:** Removes adjacent duplicate lines; `-c` counts occurrences

**wc command:** Counts lines, words, or characters; `-l` counts lines

**cp command:** Copies files or directories

**mv command:** Moves or renames files or directories