Linux Introduction Lab Sheet

This lab sheet is to be used for the Linux Introduction in Week 0 of the MSc courses at Heriot-Watt. The Linux Intro document (see URL in footer) has a link to Step-by-step login instructions covering remote login and usage of a (local) VM to do the Linux Intro. The tasks should be performed on the Linux Lab (EM 2.50) machines in the department. You can do this introduction on another machine, e.g. on a virtual machine installed on your laptop, if you wish, but layout of the interface etc might be different to the setup described in the main document.

I recommend that you print this Linux quick-reference and keep it at hand for quick lookup.

Steps Prior to the Linux Introduction

Make sure that you have your **username** and **password** for the **Linux machines** ready. These are handed out on induction day. If you don't have this information ready, get this information via *email* `help@macs.hw.ac.uk`.

Using this information, log into one of the lab machines and make sure that log-in is successful. If you fail to log-in, or if you have forgotten your password, get in touch with the Help Desk (see above).

Getting Started

On one of the lab machines, log in with your username and password.
To start a web browser, press the main menu icons, typically bottom left, and select:

Main → Internet → Firefox

In the *web browser*, type in this URL to start the actual Linux Introduction: http://bit.ly/LinuxIntro
To start a *terminal window*, press the main menu icons, typically bottom left, and select:

Main → System Tools → Terminal

You will see a white-on-black window with a prompt. This is the window in which to type the commands that are mentioned in the Linux Introduction document.

Work through the Linux Introduction Document

Start working through the document, using the *table in Section 1* to guide you to the starting section based on your experience, and follow the instructions about typing commands in the terminal window. The start of the documents points to other basic information that is useful if you have never used Linux/Unix before. You'll also find links to further reading, more exercises and textbooks in the first section.

The goal of the Linux Introduction class is to work through all of Section 2 on "Basic Linux Usage" and to start with Section 3 on "Basic Shell Scripting". Continue in your own time, but make use of the class to ask questions about basic usage and make sure that you have all the information needed to continue.

What to do if you get stuck

First of all check the links in Section 1 of the Linux Introduction, to get more basic usage information. If you are still stuck, I suggest that you pick up a textbook, such as Sobell's *"A Practical Guide to Linux Commands, Editors and Shell Programming,"* which is available from the library, and that you work through the early sections of this book. It has a lot of comments and useful guidance for those new to Linux.