# Terminal Commands for Web Development

This guide outlines fundamental terminal commands and shortcuts, primarily focused on file management, code inspection, and web development workflow.

## 1. File and Directory Navigation

These commands are essential for moving around your project structure and handling files.

| Command | Purpose | Details & Examples |
|---|---|---|
| `pwd` | **P**rint **W**orking **D**irectory. | Displays the absolute path of your current location. |
| `ls` | List directory contents. | Shows all files and folders in the current directory. Use `ls -la` to include hidden files (e.g., .env, .gitignore). |
| `cd [folder]` | **C**hange **D**irectory. | Navigates to a specific folder. Use `cd ..` to move up one directory level. |
| `mkdir [name]` | **M**a**k**e **Dir**ectory. | Creates a new folder. |
| `touch [filename]` | Create new file. | Creates a new, empty file, e.g., `touch index.html`. |
| `cp / mv` | **C**opy or **M**ove/rename. | Used to duplicate or relocate files and folders. |
| `rm [file]` | **R**e**m**ove. | Deletes a file. **Use with caution:** `rm -rf [folder]` permanently deletes a folder and its contents (no trash/recycle bin). |

## 2. Development Utilities & Inspection

Commands for inspecting code, troubleshooting, and managing system behavior from the command line.

| Command | Purpose | Details |
|---|---|---|
| `cat [file]` | Concatenate/display file. | Outputs the entire content of a file directly to the terminal. |

| `grep "[term]" [file]` | Global Regular Expression Print. | Searches for a specific string of text within a file or stream. |
|---|---|---|
| `curl [url]` | Client for URLs. | Sends a request to a URL. Useful for testing APIs or downloading files. |
| `chmod` | Change mode. | Alters file permissions, often used to make scripts executable. |
| `history` | Command history. | Displays a list of all previously executed commands. |

## 3. Essential Web Development Ecosystem Tools

While not part of the base terminal, these tools are indispensable for modern web development.

| Tool | Purpose | Key Commands |
|---|---|---|
| `git` | Version control system. | `git status`, `git add .`, `git commit` |
| `npm / yarn` | Package managers for Node.js. | Used to install dependencies (`npm install`) and run defined scripts (`npm start`). |
| `ssh` | **S**ecure **Sh**ell. | Securely connects to and manages a remote server (e.g., for deployment). |

## 4. Key Terminal Shortcuts & Help

Save time and manage your terminal session efficiently with these built-in shortcuts and help commands.

| Action/Shortcut | Purpose | Details |
|---|---|---|
| `Tab` | Auto-complete. | Automatically completes file names, folder names, or commands. |
| `Up/Down Arrows` | Command History. | Cycles through your previously executed commands. |
| `Ctrl + C` | Stop Process. | Immediately terminates a running process (e.g., a local development server). |

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|---|---|---|
| `Ctrl + L` or `clear` | Clear Screen. | Clears all previous output from the terminal display. |
| `Ctrl + A` | Move cursor to beginning of the line. | |
| `Ctrl + E` | Move cursor to the end of the line. | |
| `Ctrl + R` | Search History. | Searches interactively through your command history. |
| `[command] --help` | Quick Help. | Provides a concise summary of command usage and available options. |
| `man [command]` | Manual Pages (Linux/Mac). | Opens detailed documentation for a command (press q to quit). |
| `help [command]` | Built-in Shell Help. | Displays information about specific shell built-in commands. |