

Linux Programs

A program, or command, interacts with the kernel to provide the environment and perform the functions called for by the user. A program can be: an executable shell file, known as a shell script; a built-in shell command; or a source compiled, object code file.

The shell is a command line interpreter. The user interacts with the kernel through the shell. You can write ASCII (text) scripts to be acted upon by a shell.

System programs are usually binary, having been compiled from C source code. These are located in places like `/bin`, `/usr/bin`, `/usr/local/bin`, `/usr/ucb`, etc. They provide the functions that you normally think of when you think of Linux. Some of these are `sh`, `cs`, `date`, `who`, `more`, and there are many others.