

To Move or Copy a File or Folder

❖ Moving Files

To move files, use the **mv** command (man mv), which is similar to the cp command, except that with **mv** the file is physically moved from one place to another, instead of being duplicated, as with cp.

Common options available with mv include:

- i** interactive. Will prompt you if the file you've selected will overwrite an existing file in the destination directory. This is a good option, because like the -i option in cp, you'll be given the chance to make sure you want to replace an existing file.
- f** force. Overrides the interactive mode and moves without prompting. Unless you know what you're doing, this option doesn't play nice; be very careful about using it until you become more comfortable with your system.
- v** verbose. Shows a list of the files being moved.

If you want to move a file out of your home directory and into another directory, you would type:

```
mv sneakers.txt tigger
```

❖ Copying Files

Copying files under Linux is similar to copying files under DOS.

cp (copy) command:

```
$ cp homework/class
```

```
$ cp stuff stuff.bak
```

The first example copies the **homework** file from the current directory and stores it in your recipes/ class directory. The second example creates a file called **stuff.bak** in the current directory that is identical to the source file **stuff**.

*Note: The **cp** command will overwrite files with the same name without warning. To be prompted before overwriting, use the **-i** flag, like so:*

```
$ cp -i goulash recipes/hungarian
```

```
cp: overwrite recipes/hungarian/goulash (y/n)?
```

Common options available with **cp** include:

- i, --interactive** prompt before overwrite (overrides a previous -n option).
- v, --verbose** explain what is being done.
- version** output version information and exit.
- u, --update** copy only when the SOURCE file is newer than the destination file or when the destination file is missing.