How to remove files ? (rm command)

Deleting non-directory files

- If you want to delete a file named file1.txt then you just execute

  rm file1.txt

- Similarily, If you want to delete file1.txt, file2.txt and file3.txt then you execute

  rm file1.txt file2.txt file3.txt

- rm stands for remove
- rm can be used to delete any file including non-emtpy directories

How to delete directories ?

- We already know how to delete an empty directory using the rmdir command
- But if you want to delete a non-empty directory then rmdir will not work
- You have to use the rm command with recursive option -R

  Think about it, when you delete a directory, you delete everything below this directory inlcuding any subdirectories and files. That's why you need the recrusive option -R

  This is how you can delete a non-empty directory named mydirectory

  rm -R mydirectory

  You can also use rm to delete an empty directory the same way (You have to use the -R option)

- Notice that you can use -r and it will give the same result with the rm command , -R is not case sensitive in this case !

  rm -r mydirectory is the same as rm -R mydirectory

rm options

Option	Meaning
rm -i	Prompt you before removing any existing file. It's kind of like a double check policy.You use it when you want to make sure that you are aware of every file you remove.If this option is not specified, rm will silently dielete files i here means interactive mode
rm -f	Never prompt you before removing a file. And will not display a warning message if the file you are trying to remove doesn't exist, Meaning that it will ignore nonexistant files. f here means force (forcefully remove files)
rm -v	Verbose mode (print the name of each file before removing it). It explains what is being done all the time. v here means verbose.
rm -R	Recursively delete files.If the file is a directory, remove the entire directory and all its contents, including subdirectories. To delete a directory, this option must be specified R here means Recursive
rm -r	Same like rm -R

rm examples

Assume file1 is not a directory and dir1 is a directory

Command	Result
rm file1	Delete file1 silently
rm -i file1	Before deleting file1, prompt the user for confirmation
rm -r file1 dir1	Delete file1 and dir1 and its contents. Ofcourse, we mean the contents of dir1
rm -rf file1 dir1	Same as above, except that if either file1 or dir1 does not exit, rm will continue silently