

How to rename and move files ? (mv command)

- The `mv` command can be used in two different ways.
- Way #1 (Renaming files)

```
mv file1 file2
```

This will rename file1 to file2.

If your file is a directory

```
mv dir1 dir2
```

This will rename dir1 to dir2.

You don't need the `-R` option with the `mv` command :)

- Way #2 (Moving files)

```
mv file1 file2 ..... destination (directory) (Must exist)
```

This will move multiple files (file1, file2, ...) into the destination directory.

```
mv dir1 dir2 ..... destination (directory) (Must exist)
```

This will move multiple directories into the destination directory

Moving files is the same like cutting files in the Windows operating system. We displace the files from their original location.

mv options

Option	Meaning
<code>mv -i</code>	<p>Before overwriting an existing file, prompt the user for confirmation. If this option is not specified, <code>mv</code> will silently overwrite files by default.</p> <p><code>i</code> here means interactive mode</p>
<code>mv -v</code>	<p>Verbose mode (print the name of each file that was moved or renamed). It explains what is being done all the time.</p> <p><code>v</code> here means verbose.</p>

mv examples

Assume file1 is not a directory and dir1 is a directory

Command	Result
<code>mv file1 file2</code>	Rename file1 to file2. If <code>file2</code> exists, it is overwritten with the contents of <code>file1</code> .
<code>mv -i file1 file2</code>	Same as above. But if <code>file2</code> exists, the user is prompted before it is overwritten.
<code>mv file1 dir1 dir2</code>	Copy <code>file1</code> and <code>dir1</code> into <code>dir2</code> . The destination <code>dir2</code> must exist for the command to execute.
<code>mv dir1 dir2</code>	Here we have two cases. If <code>dir2</code> exist then <code>dir1</code> will be moved into <code>dir2</code> . If <code>dir2</code> doesn't exist then, rename <code>dir1</code> to <code>dir2</code>