

alias (define command shortcuts)

The *alias* shell builtin creates a command shortcut. It comes in handy if you often use a command with particular options and want to save yourself some typing. Try entering the following in your shell:

```
alias ll='ls -l'
```

From now on, whenever you type *ll*, the command *ls -l* will be executed. You have essentially created a new command out of an existing command – an alias. To display the aliases that are in effect, call *alias* without arguments. If you want to remove an alias that you created, use the command *unalias*.

The shell will “forget” about your aliases once you log out, unless you save them in one of your Bash configuration files, such as *~/.bashrc*. Many people keep the following aliases there to avoid deleting files by mistake:

```
alias cp='cp -i'  
alias mv='mv -i'  
alias rm='rm -i'
```

The option *-i* (“interactive”) makes the above commands ask for your permission before overwriting or deleting files. You should put these aliases in your *~/.bashrc* if you haven't already.