rmdir (remove empty directories)

This command removes a directory, like this:

rmdir DIR

The directory must be empty for the call to *rmdir* to succeed. Why not use →*rm* -*r*? It's true that *rm* -*r* has the same effect, but *rmdir* is safer. It only lets you remove directories that are empty, so it's impossible to delete important files by mistake.

Use the option -*p* ("parents") to delete a whole directory hierarchy, like so:

rmdir -p a/b/c

This will remove the directory c along with its parent directories b and a. The above invocation of *rmdir* is equivalent to:

rmdir a/b/c a/b a