How to open a terminal

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- **Windows** Win+X and select ‘Command-Prompt’ (see [http://pcsupport.about.com/od/commandlinereference/f/open-command-prompt.htm](http://pcsupport.about.com/od/commandlinereference/f/open-command-prompt.htm))

- **Ubuntu-Linux** Ctrl-Alt-T (see [https://help.ubuntu.com/community/UsingTheTerminal](https://help.ubuntu.com/community/UsingTheTerminal))

Here is how a terminal looks like in Linux:

![Image of a terminal]

Figure 1: Picture of a ‘virtual’ terminal in Linux

In the terminal, you are interacting with a program called a *shell*. 

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This program waits for you to type commands with the keyboard.
In this lecture, you will just need to know very few commands:

- **Linux/MacOSX** `pwd`, `cd`, `python`, `ipython`
- **Windows cmd** `echo %cd%`, `cd`, `python`, `ipython`

To learn more, see the lectures ‘how computers work’ and ‘how to use a computer interactively’.