

# Linux for Biologists

## Exercise Part 1

Robert Bukowski  
Institute of Biotechnology  
Bioinformatics Facility  
(aka Computational Biology Service Unit - **CBSU**)

Slides: [http://biohpc.cornell.edu/lab/doc/Linux\\_workshop.pdf](http://biohpc.cornell.edu/lab/doc/Linux_workshop.pdf)

Exercise: [http://biohpc.cornell.edu/lab/doc/Linux\\_exercise\\_part1.pdf](http://biohpc.cornell.edu/lab/doc/Linux_exercise_part1.pdf)

Contact: [brc\\_bioinformatics@cornell.edu](mailto:brc_bioinformatics@cornell.edu)

# Exercise 0: Log in to your workshop machine via ssh

Machine allocations: <https://biohpc.cornell.edu/ww/machines.aspx?i=115>

Windows: double-click on PuTTY icon  
Provide machine name and click **Open**  
Provide user name and password (when asked)



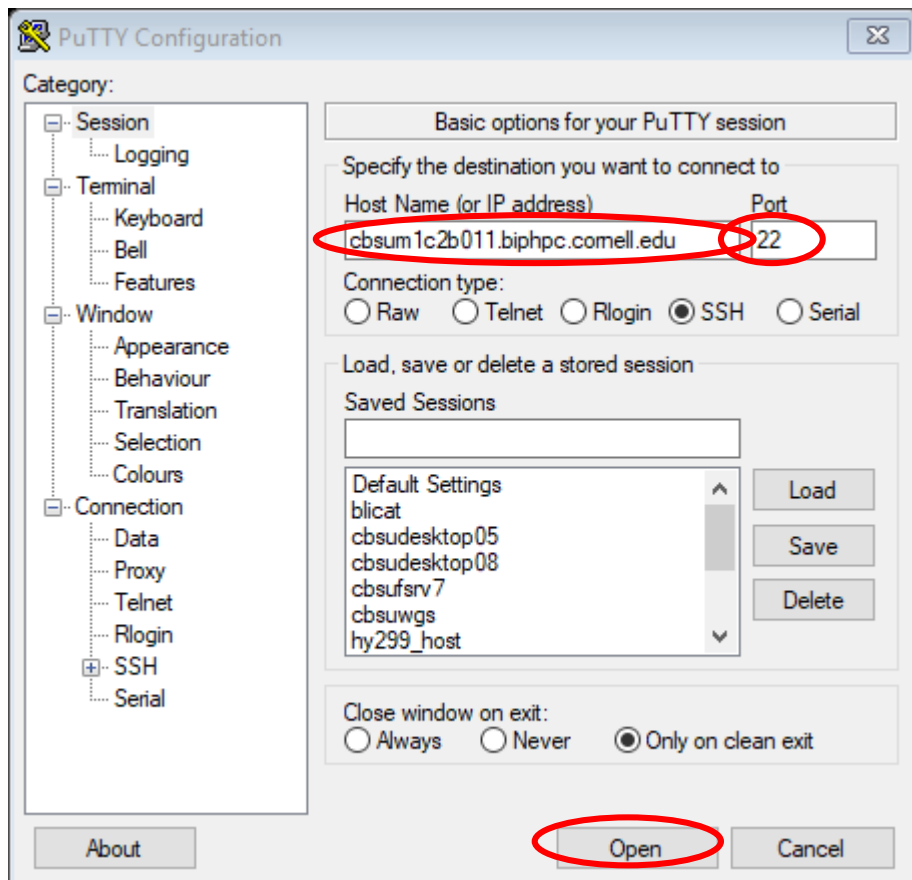
Mac, Linux:

Open the **Terminal app** (in Utilities/Applications)

In the **Terminal**, type

```
ssh -Y myID@cbsum1c2b011.biohpc.cornell.edu
```

(replace **myID** and **cbsum1c2b011** with your user ID and allocated machine name)



# Exercise 1: conversation with Linux – simple command examples

Find the name of the machine you are logged in to (`uname -a`)

Who else is logged in to this machine? (hint: use `who` or `w`)

What is the directory you “are” currently in? (hint: use `pwd`)

List the contents of the directory (use `ls -al`)

How much disk space does my directory take? (`du -hs .` or `du -h -max-depth=1`)

Find summary information about the storage available on the machine (`df -h`)

Find summary information about RAM memory available on the machine (`free`)

Find more information about the du command (`man du`)

Repeat one of the previous commands without re-typing it (use mouse-copy and paste, `history` command)

# Exercise 2: basic operations on directories

1. Create your temporary directory in the scratch file system `/workdir`
2. create a subdirectory (of that new directory), called `mytmp`.
3. Verify the subdirectory `mytmp` has been created
4. list contents of `mytmp`
5. remove `mytmp`

# Exercise 2: solution

```
cd /workdir
```

```
pwd
```

```
mkdir my_id (replace my_id with your own userID)
```

```
ls -al
```

```
mkdir my_id/mytmp
```

```
ls -al
```

```
ls -al mytmp
```

```
rmdir mytmp
```

# Exercise 3: basic operations on files

1. If not yet present, create directory `/workdir/your_id` (replace `your_id` by your real userID).
2. Copy the file `examples.tgz` located in `/shared_data/Linux_workshop` to your temporary directory
3. Unpack the file `examples.tgz` and list the resulting files and directories
4. Check the type of each file (hint use the `file` command)
5. Create a new directory in `/workdir/your_id`, called `sequences`
6. Move the files `flygenome.fa` and `short_reads.fastq` to directory `sequences`
7. Create a new directory in `/workdir/your_id`, called `shellscripts`
8. Move all shell scripts (i.e., all files with names ending with `“.sh”`) from directory `scripts` to the newly created directory `shellscripts`
9. Remove the directory `scripts`

# Exercise 3: solution

```
cd /workdir
mkdir bukowski
cd bukowski
cp /shared_data/Linux_workshop/examples.tgz .
tar -xzvf examples.tgz
ls -al
ls -al scripts
file * scripts/*
mkdir sequences
mv flygenome.fa short_reads.fastq sequences
mkdir shellscripts
mv scripts/*.sh shellscripts
ls -al shellscripts
rm -Rf scripts
```

# Exercise 4: basic operations on text files

Open the file `/workdir/userID/ZmB73_5b_FGS.gff` in text editor `nano` and/or `vim`, navigate through the file, edit it, save. Repeat with file `/workdir/userID/shellscripts/bwascript2.sh`

Page through a file using `less`

```
cd /workdir/userID
less ZmB73_5b_FGS.gff
```

Display the first 10 and the last 10 lines of the fastq file

```
cd /workdir/userID/sequences
head -10 short_reads.fastq
tail -10 short_reads.fastq
```

Save lines 1000 through 2000 of the fastq file above into another file

```
head -2000 short_reads.fastq | tail -1000 > middle_lines.fastq
```

Count the lines/words/characters in a fastq file. How many reads does this file contain?

```
wc short_reads.fastq
```

Look for a string in a file and number of lines the string occurs in

```
grep AATTCGT short_reads.fastq
grep AATTCGT short_reads.fastq | wc -l
```

Note the size of the file (use `ls -al`). Then compress the file using `gzip`. What is the gain from compression?

```
ls -al short_reads.fastq
gzip short_reads.fastq
ls -al short_reads.fastq.gz
```



## Exercise 5: advanced processing of text files

Among the files used in Exercise 2, there is a file `ZmB73_5b_FGS.gff`, describing gene annotations in maize. The file is TAB-delimited (check this!) with following columns:

1. Chromosome
2. Source
3. Feature
4. Start position
5. End position
6. Score
7. Strand
8. Frame
9. Attribute

### Tasks:

Look into the file to examine its structure (use `more`, `cat` or a text editor)

Create a new file, containing only **gene** features, with columns 9, 1, 4, and 5 (in this order)

Sort this new file over **Chromosome** and **End position**

Examine the sorted file in a text editor

## Exercise 5: solution

Extract the genic lines to a temporary file

```
grep -P "\tgene\t" ZmB73_5b_FGS.gff > tmp_gene
```

Extract the last column to another temporary file

```
cut -f 9 tmp_gene > tmp_gene_attr
```

Get columns 1,4,5 and paste them to the right or column 9

```
cut -f 1,4,5 tmp_gene | paste tmp_gene_attr - > final_file
```

Sort the file obtained above

```
sort -k 2,2 -k 4,4n final_file > final_file_sorted
```

Remove the temporary files

```
rm tmp_gene tmp_gene_attr final_file
```

Examine the final sorted file in a text editor

```
vi final_file_sorted
```

```
nano final_file_sorted
```

...