Command Line Reference Sheet

Command Line is the text-based interface commonly used by code developers. Understanding how to work with this interface will provide you more control over the files and directories in your system. This sheet provides a quick reference on commands when using command line.

How do I...	Command	Additional Notes
See what my current working directory is	`pwd`	The output is the absolute path to your current working directory
List the contents of my current working directory	`ls`	
List the contents of a directory specified by `path`	`ls path`	`path` can be absolute or relative.
List the hidden contents of my current working directory	`ls -a`	The `-a` flag is short for all. The flag can be used with a `path` too.
Change directories to a directory specified by `path`	`cd path`	
Change the current working directory to the parent directory	`cd ..`	`..` always refers to that directory's parent directory.
Move a file from `path1` to `path2`	`mv path1 path2`	Move and copy share the same syntax. To copy, use `cp` instead of `mv`. All moves and copies will overwrite files that share the same name in `path2` without notifying you.
Move a file from `path` to your current working directory	`mv path .`	`.` always refers to the current directory itself.
Copy all the files and subdirectories from a directory at `path` to your current working directory	`cp -r path .`	`-r` flag is short for recursive. The flag ensures subdirectories get copied as well. Leave it off if you do not want subdirectories to be copied.
Delete a specific file at `file_path`	`rm file_path`	All deletions are permanent so be careful.
Delete all files and subdirectories from a given directory at `path`	`rm -rf path`	The `-f` flag means to force the operation. It signifies that you are sure of what you are doing so be sure you know what you are doing.
Delete all the files and subdirectories from the current working directory	`rm -rf .`	
Delete all files that end with `.exe` from the current working directory	`rm *.exe`	The `*` represents every file/directory in the current directory. `*.exe` represents every file/directory in the current directory that has `.exe` at the end. The use of `*` is powerful but must be done carefully.
Open a file located at `file_path` using `gedit`	`gedit file_path`	`gedit` is a graphical-based editor. If you do not have graphics enabled, this will not work.
Open a file located at `file_path` using `vim`	`vim file_path`	`vim` is a text-based editor and will take over your current terminal.