

Introduction to the Computer Lab

This portion of the lab is for people who are new to the lab. If you've had Calc Lab (Math 235), you can browse this document, then go right to the Matlab portion.

Goals for the first part of class:

- Be able to log in and out (and in again).
- Be able to change your password.
- Customize the desktop with icons for Maple, Firefox TeX-maker, a shell window and Matlab.

Log in and out

Log in using your usual Whitman login name, and your assigned password.

Be sure to log out after every session! You can either use the button in the upper right corner of your desktop, or go to **System**→**Quit**

Change Your Password - Modify the Toolbar

First, we need a window in which we can type some commands. We will want to create an icon on our upper toolbar so this will be easy to access. From the upper left menu, choose the following, then drag the **Terminal** icon to your toolbar.

Application→**Accessories**→**Terminal**

Left-click the icon we just put on the toolbar, and a window should open on your desktop (the name of your computer will appear). We will be using command lines to change the password:

Type: **kpasswd**

The first password asked for is your current password, then follow the instructions.

Be sure that you can log in using your new password- At this step, log out, then log back in.

Firefox (or Chrome), Maple, Matlab and TeX-Maker

Find the desired icon under either **Applications** or **Actions**, then use the mouse to drag it to the toolbar:

- Use Firefox (or Chrome) to get to our class website, and bookmark it (you can find it from the department website if needed):

<http://www.whitman.edu/~hundredr/courses/M472.html>

- Find the Maple icon, and put it onto the toolbar. (We won't use it much if at all in this class, but it will be there for future reference).
- Repeat this process for Matlab.
- You might go ahead and find the icon for TeX-Maker and put it on the toolbar, even though we won't necessarily need it for this class.

Notes on the computers and software

You are working on a computer that is using the Ubuntu version of Linux. This operating system is community developed and free of charge. If you would like to have Ubuntu on your Windows computer, it is easy to “dual boot” (Google wubi, which is an easy to use Ubuntu installer).

The look and feel of the operating system should remind you of Windows- Feel free to explore the menus.

Files and Folders

There are several ways of creating folders and navigating the directory structure in Ubuntu. You may use the *File Browser* which is very similar to Windows or Apple, or you may use a command line window using a *Shell*- Using the command line is very fast, but you need to know some Unix commands.

Use the *File Browser* to create a file folder called *Temp*, then be sure you can delete it (go ahead and delete). Next, create a folder called *Modeling*, and then create a subfolder called *Lab01*.

HINT: Do not use whitespace in folder or file names!

These are BAD:

My Class File 1.txt my document.m

These are GOOD:

MyClass File01.txt myDocument.m