Working on a Mac

Mac Terminal Is an Incomplete Unix System

Common commands work fine on a Mac terminal, but certain options don't exist and the less common the command the more unlikely it is to be available. If you don't know if a script will run on another computer, test it on Attu to make sure, as that's what the grading is based on.

Transferring Files To/From Attu

If you make and test your scripts on attu (which we recommend) and then want to download it to your machine for turn-in, you'll want to connect to attu using 'sftp' rather than 'ssh'. Secure File Transfer Protocol, SFTP, lets you upload and download files via the 'put' and 'get' commands. **Put** takes a file on the computer you called `sftp` FROM and puts it on the computer you called `sftp` ON. **Get** does the opposite (gets a file from the computer you called sftp to).

Thus, if you had a file hw.txt on attu in your 390a directory that you wanted to download to your Mac, from your Mac terminal you would type:

- `sftp username@attu.cs.washington.edu`
- `get 390a/hw.txt`
- `exit`

You can call some of the usual bash commands in sftp, like cd and mkdir, but it is limited compared to a standard BASH shell.