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## Alias, Setting command aliases

The alias command allows you to make new shortcuts and synonyms for commonly used commands. The basic usage is:

```
alias newcommand='yourcommand -arguments'
```

If you want to start aterm according to your preferences with the command term, do something like:

```
alias term='aterm -ls -fg gray -bg black'
```

If you want a quick alias like ll for a more informative file listing:

```
ls -al --color=yes
```

Starting alias without any options lists the current aliases:

```
alias
```

```
alias ls='ll'  
alias ls -al --color=yes  
alias term='aterm -ls -fg gray -bg black'
```

Use unalias to remove an alias.

```
unalias term
```

You can also make aliases for existing commands. If you want ls to show colors by default, do:

```
alias ls='ls --color=yes'
```

These aliases can be put in your login script (.bash\_profile or .profile depending on what shell you are using).

## Alias with variables

You can not make aliases with variables. But you can make functions, having a function in your .profile/.bashrc will work just like an alias. To use ssh to copy files to a location on a server you can use

```
sendpic () { scp "$@" mina@foo.bar.ca:/www/misc/Pictures/; }
```

## Another way for aliases with variables

If you don't like to use a function, if you need variables, try the following to change to the last working directory:

```
alias cdo="cd \"\${OLDPWD}\""
```

Note: it is important, that there are ONLY double quotes in the expression above, no single quotes like in the other examples!

## Creating aliases on shell startup

You can have your aliases created anytime you open an instance of a shell. If you are using bash, edit your `~/.bashrc` file and add one alias per line. Once you save and close the file, run this to load your new aliases immediately:

```
source ~/.bashrc
```

Otherwise, the new aliases will load whenever you open a new instance of the shell.

Another place to put your aliases if you want them to be system-wide for all users is in `/etc/bashrc`. To load those aliases, add this line to `~/.bashrc`

```
source /etc/bashrc
```

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