

COP4342 Unix Tools
Course Overview
Spring 2025

Unix was the first standardized general operating system. It has been ported to several machines and is now the standard OS that is used for serious software development. While Unix has been around for a few decades, its utility as an operating system has been well proven. It has been ported to hundreds of processors and has been shown to be quite reliable and efficient.

Unix has several advantages over Windows, which is the other popular operating system in use today. While Windows (or other GUI type OS's) are much easier for a novice to learn, Unix has features that allow a serious computer scientist to become more productive. These features include faster response times, facilities to easily automate a sequence of tasks, and interoperability of literally hundreds of tools.

In this class we will study programming in shell scripts and Perl, and the use of a variety of Unix tools for text manipulation, program development, file management, and document preparation. You will be given a number of assignments during the semester that will require you to use these languages and tools. These assignments will help you obtain a better understanding of these concepts. Learning how to properly use the features of Unix is not only useful for system administrators, but for anyone who will be involved in software development. Proper use of these languages and tools will help you become more efficient and allow you to become a more productive employee after you graduate.