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| **Topic** | **Command line (CLI)** | **GUI** |
| **Ease** | Due to a higher degree of memorization and familiarity needed for operation and navigation, new users find operating a command line interface more difficult than a GUI. | Because a GUI is much more visually intuitive, new users almost always pick up this interface faster than a CLI. |
| **Control** | Users have more control over both the file and operating systems in a command line interface. For example, users can copy a specific file from one location to another with a one-line command. | Although a GUI offers ample access to the file and operating system, advanced tasks may still need to utilize the command line. |
| **Multitasking** | Although many command line environments are capable of multitasking, they do not offer the same ease and ability to view multiple things at once on one screen. | GUI users have windows that enable a user to view, control, manipulate, and toggle through multiple programs and folders at same time. |
| **Speed** | Command line users only need to utilize their keyboards to navigate the interface. Additionally, they often only need to execute a few lines to perform a task. | Using both a mouse and keyboard to navigate and control your operating or file system is going to be much slower than someone who is working in a command line. |
| **Resources** | A computer that is only using the command line takes a lot less of the computer's [system resources](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/r/resource.htm) than a GUI. | A GUI requires more system resources because of the elements that require loading, such as icons and fonts. Video, mouse, and other [drivers](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/d/driver.htm) need to be loaded, taking up additional system resources. |
| **Scripting** | A command line interface enables a user to script a sequence of commands to perform a task or execute a program. | Although A GUI enables a user to create shortcuts, tasks, or other similar actions, it doesn't even come close in comparison to what is available through a command line. |
| **Remote access** | When accessing another computer or device over a network, a user can only manipulate the device or its files with a command line interface. | Although remote graphical access is possible. Not all computers and network equipment has this ability. |
| **Diversity** | After you've learned how to navigate and use a command line, it's not going to change as much as a new GUI. Although new commands may be introduced, the original commands always remain the same. | Each GUI has a different design and structure when it comes to performing different tasks. Even different iterations of the same GUI, such as Windows, can have hundreds of different changes between each version. |
| **Strain** | The command line allows the user to keep their hands on the keyboard, almost never touching the mouse. Moving back and forth between a keyboard and mouse can cause additional strain and may help contribute to [Carpal Tunnel Syndrome](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/carpaltu.htm). | Although [shortcut keys](http://www.computerhope.com/shortcut.htm) can help reduce the amount of times you have move from the keyboard to the mouse, you will still be moving much more between devices in a GUI. |