

# Symbolic Links in Athena

## How do I create a symbolic link in Athena?

### Context

- A symbolic link is a pointer to another file or directory. It can be used just like the original file or directory.
- A common use of symbolic links at Athena is to create redirects to `/www` directories.

### Example

User mrhalp has created a page in his `/www` directory. He would like visitors to use the URL "`http://web.mit.edu/mrhalp`" rather than "`http://web.mit.edu/mrhalp/www`".

Rather than have multiple copies of his site, mrhalp can create a symbolic link in the `/mrhalp` that points to `/mrhalp/www/index.html`.

### Solution

```
ln -s TARGET-DIRECTORY-OR-FILE SHORTCUT
```

Ex. (Working directory is `/afs/athena.mit.edu/user/m/r/mrhalp`)

```
athena% ln -s ~/www/index.html index.html
```