# How do I read manual pages (man)?

## How do I read manual pages (man)?

One good way to find information about particular programs or commands on Athena is to read the manual pages with the "man" command. Type:

```
man program
```

at your athena% prompt, where program is the name of the command you are curious about. For example,

```
man zwrite
```

tells you how the zwrite command works, what arguments it accepts, and some known bugs.

Another good tool is the apropos command. If you type

```
apropos keyword
```

a list of all man pages that contain keyword in their name field will be returned. For example, if you type

```
apropos zwrite
```

You'll get this output:

```
xzwrite (1)             - X application to write to another user via Zephyr
  zwrite (1)              - write to another user via Zephyr
  xzwrite (1)           - X application to write to another user via Zephyr
```

You can then use man to view the manual page for the specific command you want. You can also type

```
man man
```

to get more information on how man works.