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"add" is not really a command, but an alias that is defined by the standard athena dotfiles. The difference between "add" and "attach" is that "attach" only attaches the locker that you specify, whereas "add" does the following:

- attaches the locker
- extends your "PATH" environment variable to include /mit/lockername/arch/\$ATHENA_SYS/bin or /mit/lockername/\$bindir if /mit/lockername/arch/\$ATHENA_SYS/bin does not exist
- extends your "MANPATH" environment variable to include /mit/lockername/man

Thus, if you use "add", you will be able to run programs from the /mit/locker/arch/\$ATHENA_SYS/bin directories, and also access the manual pages in the locker, both without having to specify the path.

```
attach graphics
/mit/graphics/arch/$ATHENA_SYS/bin/xloadimage
man -M/mit/graphics/man xloadimage
```

or

```
add graphics
xloadimage
man xloadimage
```

Some lockers still use the old /mit/lockername/\$bindir convention and other lockers may use both conventions. The /mit/lockername/arch/\$ATHENA_SYS/bin convention is preferred.

Basically, you should use the "add" command whenever you need to run software out of a locker. If you only need to read or write files to a locker (for example, updating your group's web page, or getting files from a friend's "Public" directory), you should use the "attach" command.