

Command-Line Interface (CLI)

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Discussion

A Command-Line Interface (CLI) provides a text-based interface through which a person or automated process invokes software operations by supplying commands, options, arguments, and input values.

A CLI can receive input from:

- An interactive terminal session
- A shell script
- A [Workflow](#)
- A [CI/CD Pipeline](#)
- Another software process

A CLI can produce:

- Command output
- Operation status
- Diagnostic information
- Error information
- Structured output
- Process exit status

Within Crucible documentation, a CLI provides one possible interface for invoking noninteractive operations within a [Workspace](#) or automated Workflow.

Definition

text-based interface through which a person or automated process invokes software operations by supplying commands, options, arguments, and input values

Source

DIDO-controlled term adapted from established operating-system, shell, and software-interface practices.

Note

The acronym **CLI** means **Command-Line Interface**.

A Command-Line Interface differs from a command line. A command line is the textual command and associated arguments supplied through the interface.

A CLI can support interactive or noninteractive execution.

The existence of a CLI does not require an operation to prompt for user input. Automated processes can invoke a CLI using predefined commands, arguments, configuration, environment variables, or input files.

A CLI differs from a graphical user interface and an application programming interface, although software can provide more than one interface to the same operation.

Example

A CI/CD Pipeline invokes the Crucible CLI with a Workspace location, selected Baselines, operation parameters, and an output location. Crucible performs the requested operation without prompting for interactive input and returns an exit status and execution result.

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