Help Topic: The SVN Move Command

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The SVN `move` Command

The `svn mv` command allows you to change the name of a file or directory in a locally checked out repository while retaining the history of the file or directory. More info on `svn mv` can always be found by Googling "Subversion book" and reading the full PDF online free, or just typing `svn help mv` anytime on the command line.

Basic usage of the svn `mv` command

The basic syntax for the svn `status` command is:

```
$ svn mv alpha.cpp beta.cpp
A       beta.cpp
D       alpha.cpp
```

The `svn mv` command does *not* require a network connection to the server and only declares an intention to make a set of changes to the master copy on the svn server upon the next commit.

In looking at the above output, it may seem that invoking `svn mv` is the same as:

```
$ cp alpha.cpp bravo.cpp
$ svn add bravo.cpp
$ svn rm alpha.cpp
```

When done this way, the history of changes to `alpha.cpp` will be lost. If you were to invoke `svn log bravo.cpp`, you would only see one entry, and perhaps lose valuable log information about who and what changed in `alpha.cpp` over time. By using `svn mv` this log history is retained and carried over to `bravo.cpp`.