These are some very brief notes on using a linux system if you are used to windows, and have cygwin installed. Please send additions that you find useful.

Linux is mainly a command line language, although some full systems also have graphic interfaces similar to Windows of Mac's. Cygwin is a full operating system that runs parallel with Windows and can be used for many other things not just for edm/ncemss/mbfit. Some useful things to do:

a) When in doubt, use google. There is a vast amount of material on the web available and many very good web pages with more details than here.

b) To make life simpler, edit the file ".bashrc" to add the lines:
export PATH=/usr/local/edm/bin:$PATH
export DISPLAY=localhost:0.0

These will ensure that every time you start a cywin shell, the edm commands are available to you.

c) Execute the command (from a cygwin terminal) "chere –fi". This will add a command "bash Prompt here" to the windows commands shown when you right click on a directory. This is a quick way to go to different directories.

d) The command "cygstart" is very useful. For instance, "cygstart ./" will open up a normal windows file viewer in the directory you are working in. Also, a command such as "cygstart notes.pdf" would open up notes.doc (assuming that it is present) in whatever program you have installed to view Word documents.

In addition, sometimes you may want an editor. The programs "nano" and/or "pico". Alternatively, perhaps better, both semper-7.0 and Numis-2.0 have easyeditor, a command "ee" which is not bad. For instance "ee case.hkl" can be used at the terminal. If you are unix proficient, there are several X-based editors available within cygwin. (It has been added to the latest releases.)

Two sources for some more "simple" tricks with cygwin are
http://alumni.soe.ucsc.edu/~you/notes/cygwin-install.html#mozTocId125492

And, to find out more
http://www.cygwin.com/cygwin-ug-net/cygwin-ug-net.html