

Linux Terminal Command Reference

System Info

date – Show the current date and time
cal – Show this month's calendar
uptime – Show current uptime
w – Display who is online
whoami – Who you are logged in as
finger user – Display information about **user**
uname -a – Show kernel information
cat /proc/cpuinfo – CPU information
cat /proc/meminfo – Memory information
df -h – Show disk usage
du – Show directory space usage
free – Show memory and swap usage

Keyboard Shortcuts

Enter – Run the command
Up Arrow – Show the previous command
Ctrl + R – Allows you to type a part of the command you're looking for and finds it
Ctrl + Z – Stops the current command, resume with **fg** in the foreground or **bg** in the background
Ctrl + C – Halts the current command, cancel the current operation and/or start with a fresh new line
Ctrl + L – Clear the screen
command | less – Allows the scrolling of the bash command window using **Shift + Up Arrow** and **Shift + Down Arrow**
!! – Repeats the last command
command !\$ – Repeats the last argument of the previous command
Esc + . (a period) – Insert the last argument of the previous command on the fly, which enables you to edit it before executing the command

Ctrl + A – Return to the start of the command you're typing
Ctrl + E – Go to the end of the command you're typing
Ctrl + U – Cut everything before the cursor to a special clipboard, erases the whole line
Ctrl + K – Cut everything after the cursor to a special clipboard
Ctrl + Y – Paste from the special clipboard that **Ctrl + U** and **Ctrl + K** save their data to
Ctrl + T – Swap the two characters before the cursor (you can actually use this to transport a character from the left to the right, try it!)
Ctrl + W – Delete the word / argument left of the cursor in the current line

Ctrl + D – Log out of current session, similar to **exit**

Learn the Commands

apropos subject – List manual pages for **subject**
man -k keyword – Display man pages containing **keyword**
man command – Show the manual for **command**
man -t man | ps2pdf -> man.pdf – Make a pdf of a manual page

which command – Show full path name of **command**

time command – See how long a **command** takes

whereis app – Show possible locations of **app**

which app – Show which **app** will be run by default; it shows the full path

Searching

grep pattern files – Search for **pattern** in **files**

grep -r pattern dir – Search recursively for **pattern** in **dir**

command | grep pattern – Search for **pattern** in the output of **command**

locate file – Find all instances of **file**

find / -name filename – Starting with the root directory, look for the file called **filename**

find / -name "*filename*" – Starting with the root directory, look for the file containing the string **filename**

locate filename – Find a file called **filename** using the locate command; this assumes you have already used the command

updatedb (see next)

updatedb – Create or update the database of files on all file systems attached to the Linux root directory

which filename – Show the subdirectory containing the executable file called **filename**

grep TextStringToFind /dir – Starting with the directory called **dir**, look for and list all files containing **TextStringToFind**

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File Permissions

chmod octal file – Change the permissions of **file** to **octal**, which can be found separately for user, group, and world by adding: 4 – read (r), 2 – write (w), 1 – execute (x)

Examples:

chmod 777 – read, write, execute for all

chmod 755 – rwx for owner, rx for group and world

For more options, see **man chmod**.

File Commands

ls – Directory listing

ls -l – List files in current directory using long format

ls -laC – List all files in current directory in long format and display in columns

ls -F – List files in current directory and indicate the file type

ls -al – Formatted listing with hidden files

cd dir – Change directory to **dir**

cd – Change to home

mkdir dir – Create a directory **dir**

pwd – Show current directory

rm name – Remove a file or directory called **name**

rm -r dir – Delete directory **dir**

rm -f file – Force remove **file**

rm -rf dir – Force remove an entire directory **dir** and all it's included files and subdirectories (use with extreme caution)

cp file1 file2 – Copy **file1** to **file2**

cp -r dir1 dir2 – Copy **dir1** to **dir2**; create **dir2** if it doesn't exist

cp file /home/dirname – Copy the filename called **file** to the **/home/dirname** directory

mv file /home/dirname – Move the **file** called filename to the **/home/dirname** directory

mv file1 file2 – Rename or move **file1** to **file2**; if **file2** is an existing directory, moves **file1** into directory **file2**

ln -s file link – Create symbolic link **link** to **file**

touch file – Create or update **file**

cat > file – Places standard input into **file**

cat file – Display the file called **file**

more file – Display the file called **file** one page at a time, proceed to next page using the spacebar

head file – Output the first 10 lines of **file**

head -20 file – Display the first 20 lines of the file called **file**

tail file – Output the last 10 lines of **file**

tail -20 file – Display the last 20 lines of the file called **file**

tail -f file – Output the contents of **file** as it grows, starting with the last 10 lines

Compression

tar cf file.tar files – Create a tar named **file.tar** containing **files**

tar xf file.tar – Extract the files from **file.tar**

tar czf file.tar.gz files – Create a tar with Gzip compression

tar xzf file.tar.gz – Extract a tar using Gzip

tar cjf file.tar.bz2 – Create a tar with Bzip2 compression

tar xjf file.tar.bz2 – Extract a tar using Bzip2

gzip file – Compresses **file** and renames it to **file.gz**

gzip -d file.gz – Decompresses **file.gz** back to **file**

Printing

/etc/rc.d/init.d/lpd start – Start the print daemon

/etc/rc.d/init.d/lpd stop – Stop the print daemon

/etc/rc.d/init.d/lpd status – Display status of the print daemon

lpq – Display jobs in print queue

lprm – Remove jobs from queue

lpr – Print a file

lpc – Printer control tool

man subject | lpr – Print the manual page called **subject** as plain text

man -t subject | lpr – Print the manual page called **subject** as Postscript output

printtool – Start X printer setup interface

SSH

ssh user@host – Connect to **host** as **user**

ssh -p port user@host – Connect to **host** on port **port** as **user**

ssh-copy-id user@host – Add your key to **host** for **user** to enable a keyed or passwordless login

User Administration

adduser accountname – Create a new user call **accountname**

passwd accountname – Give **accountname** a new password

su – Log in as superuser from current login

exit – Stop being superuser and revert to normal user

Network

ifconfig – List IP addresses for all devices on the local machine

iwconfig – Used to set the parameters of the network

interface which are specific to the wireless operation (for example: the frequency)

iwlist – used to display some additional information from a wireless network interface that is not displayed by **iwconfig**

ping host – Ping **host** and output results

whois domain – Get whois information for **domain**

dig domain – Get DNS information for **domain**

dig -x host – Reverse lookup **host**

wget file – Download **file**

wget -c file – Continue a stopped download

Process Management

ps – Display your currently active processes

top – Display all running processes

kill pid – Kill process id **pid**

killall proc – Kill all processes named **proc** (use with extreme caution)

bg – Lists stopped or background jobs; resume a stopped job in the background

fg – Brings the most recent job to foreground

fg n – Brings job **n** to the foreground

Installation from source

./configure

make

make install

dpkg -i pkg.deb – install a DEB package (Debian / Ubuntu / Linux Mint)

rpm -Uvh pkg.rpm – install a RPM package (Red Hat / Fedora)

Stopping & Starting

shutdown -h now – Shutdown the system now and do not

reboot

halt – Stop all processes - same as above

shutdown -r 5 – Shutdown the system in 5 minutes and

reboot

shutdown -r now – Shutdown the system now and reboot

reboot – Stop all processes and then reboot - same as above

startx – Start the X system

More practical downloads on printables.info