Unix/Linux Command Reference

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File Commands

ls - directory listing

ls -al - formatted listing with hidden files

cd dir - change directory to dir

cd - change to home

cd - change back to previous directory

pwd - show current directory

mkdir dir - create a directory dir

rm file - delete file

rm -r dir - delete directory dir

rm -f file - force remove file

rm -**rf** *dir* - force remove directory *dir* *

cp file1 file2 - copy file1 to file2

cp -r dir1 dir2 - copy dir1 to dir2; create dir2 if it
doesn't exist

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

more file - output the contents of file

head file - output the first 10 lines of file

tail file - output the last 10 lines of file

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

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 *

jobs - lists stopped or background jobs

bg - resume a stopped job in the background

fg - brings the most recent job to foreground

fg n - brings job n to the foreground

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**.

SSH

ssh [-p port] user@host - connect to host as user,
optionally on custom port port

scp [-P port] user@host:path1 path2 - copy the
remote file at path1 to local location path2

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

Searching

grep pattern files - search for pattern in files
grep -r pattern dir - search for pattern in dir
command | grep pattern - search for pattern in the
output of command

locate file - find all instances of file

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

man *command* - show the manual for *command*

df - show disk usage

du - show directory space usage

free - show memory and swap usage

whereis app - show possible locations of app
which app - show which app will be run by default

type *app* - show which *app* or builtin will be run

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 - expands file.gz back to file

Network

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

Installation

Install from source:

./configure

make

make install

dpkg -i pkg.deb - install a package (Debian)

rpm - **Uvh** *pkg.rpm* - install a package (RPM)

Shortcuts

Ctrl+C - halts the current command

Ctrl+Z - stops the current command, resume with

fg in the foreground or bg in the background

Ctrl+D - log out of current session, similar to exit

Ctrl+W - erases one word in the current line

Ctrl+U - erases the whole line

Ctrl+R - type to bring up a recent command

!! - repeats the last command

exit - log out of current session

* use with extreme caution.

