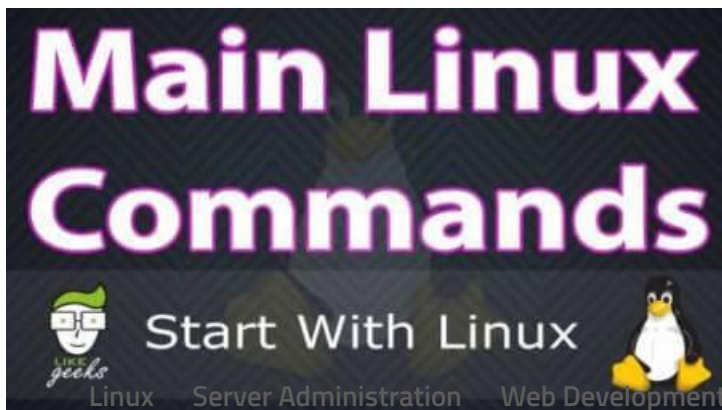




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LINUX

Main Linux Commands Easy Guide

2017-01-31 admin 0 Comments

In the previous post, we discussed [how to install Linux](#), now we are going to talk about the most powerful features in Linux which is Linux commands or shell commands.

For the whole documentation of Linux Commands, you can check [Linux Documentation](#).

If you will use Linux, you should know that the power of Linux resides in its shell and the commands that you can use on that shell which gives you the ultimate power.

I'm going to talk about the main Linux commands with their main parameters that you might use daily.



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ls Command

List the content of the current directory.

Parameters

—|

Mokhtar Ebrahim (LikeGeeks)

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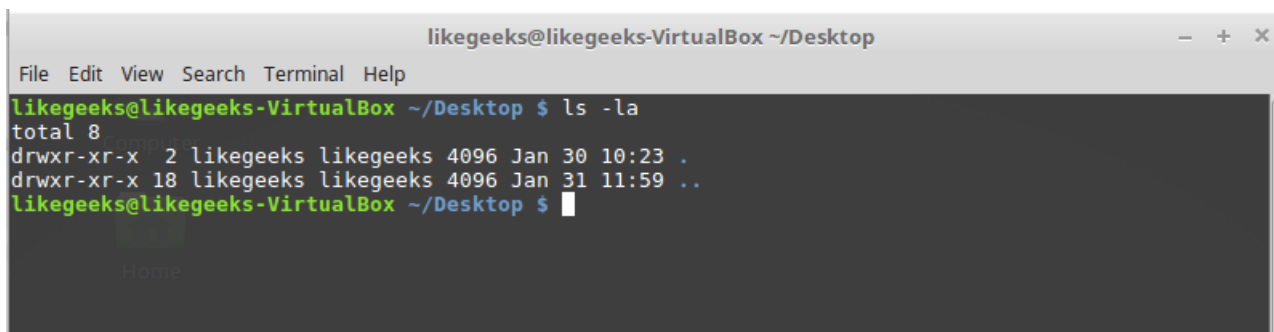


-a

Display all files includes hidden files.

You can combine parameters like this:

```
ls -la
```



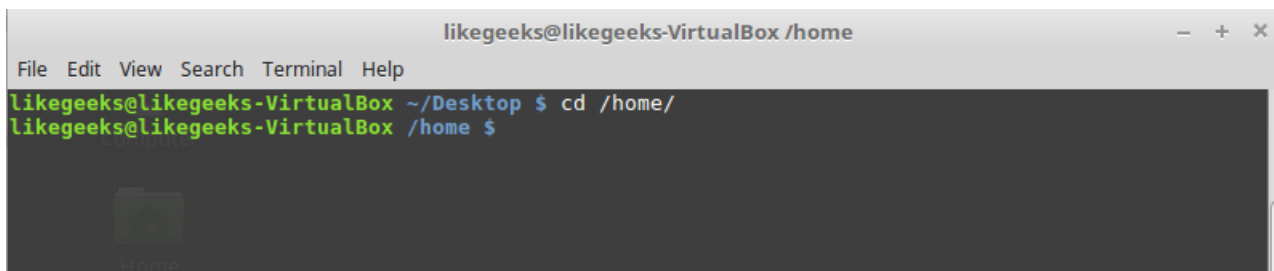
```
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~/Desktop $ ls -la
total 8
drwxr-xr-x  2 likegeeks likegeeks 4096 Jan 30 10:23 .
drwxr-xr-x 18 likegeeks likegeeks 4096 Jan 31 11:59 ..
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~/Desktop $
```

cd Command

Change directory from the current directory to another one.

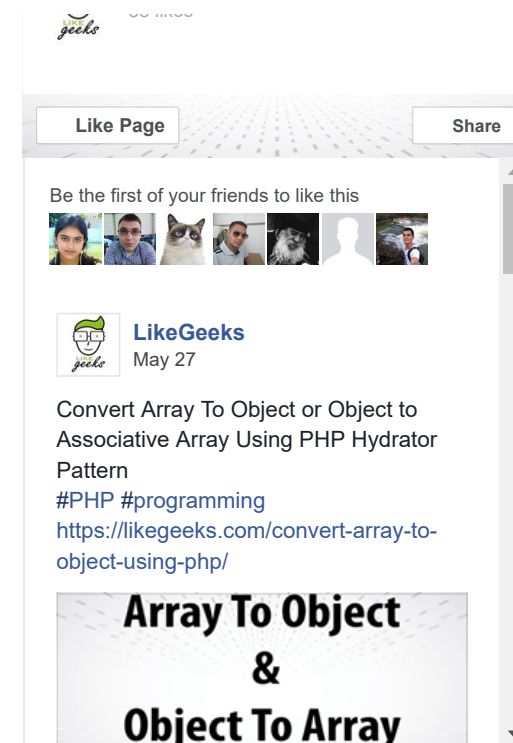
```
cd /home
```

Will go to home directory



```
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~/Desktop $ cd /home/
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home $
```

cp Command





Parameters

-i

Interactive mode means wait for the confirmation if there are files on the target will be overwritten.

-r

Recursive copy means include subdirectories if they found.

Example

```
cp -ir sourcedir targetdir
```

```
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $ cp -ir Templates/ newDir/  
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $
```

mv Command

Move the source to target and remove the source.

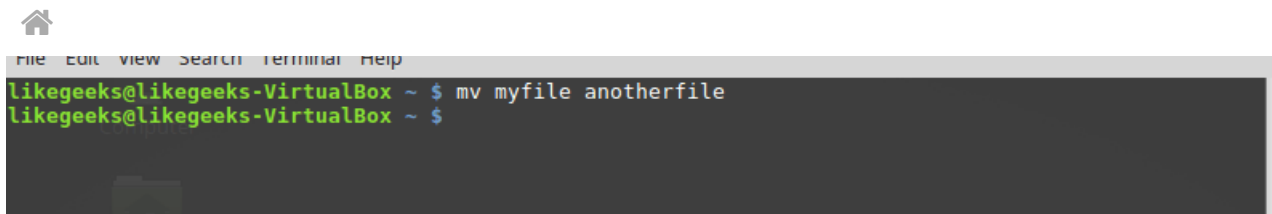
Parameters

-i

Interactive mode means wait for the confirmation if there are files on the target will be overwritten.

Example

```
mv -i sourceFile targetFile
```

A terminal window with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help) and a title bar (likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~). The terminal shows the command `mv myfile anotherfile` being executed successfully.

```
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $ mv myfile anotherfile
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $
```

rm Command

Delete file or directory and you must use `-r` in case you want to delete a directory.

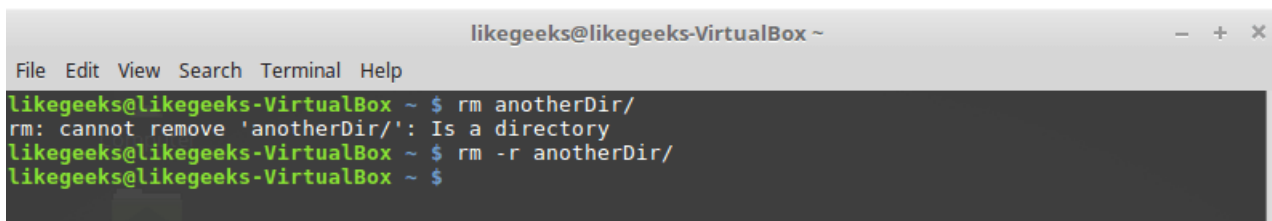
Parameters

`-r`

Recursive delete means delete all subdirectories if found.

`-i`

Interactive means wait till confirmation

A terminal window with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help) and a title bar (likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~). The terminal shows an attempt to remove a directory without the recursive flag, resulting in an error, followed by a successful removal using the recursive flag.

```
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $ rm anotherDir/
rm: cannot remove 'anotherDir/': Is a directory
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $ rm -r anotherDir/
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $
```

mkdir Command

Create new directory

```
mkdir newDir
```



```
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $ mkdir newDir
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $
```

rmdir Command

Delete a directory

```
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $ rmdir newDir/
likegeeks@likegeeks-VirtualBox ~ $
```

chown Command

Change the ownership of a file or directory to the user you specify.

Parameters

-R

Capital R here means to change ownership of all subdirectories if found and you must use this parameter if you use the command against a directory.

```
chown -R root:root myDir
```

```
root@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home/likegeeks
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # chown root:root AAA.tar.gz
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # chown -R root:root Templates/
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```



Change the permission of a file or directory.

Parameters

The mode which is divided into 3 parts, **owner**, **group**, and **others** means what will be the permissions for these modes, and you must specify them.

Every one of the 3 modes takes a permission.

The permission is one of the followings:

Read =4

Write = 2

Execute =1

Every permission represented by a number as shown and you can combine permissions.

Example

```
chmod 755 myfile
```

That means set permission for the file named myfile as follows:

owner: set it to 7 which means 4+2+1 means read+write+execute.

group: set it to 5 which means 4+1 means read+execute.

other: set it to 5 which means 4+1 means read+execute.

Note: execute for a folder permission means opening it.



```
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # chmod 755 AAA.tar.gz  
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```

locate Command

To find a file in your system, the locate command will search the system for the pattern you provide.

```
locate myfile
```

```
root@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home/likegeeks  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # locate AAA.tar  
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # locate AAA.tar.gz  
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # updatedb  
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # locate AAA.tar.gz  
/home/likegeeks/AAA.tar.gz  
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```

updatedb Command

updates the database used by the locate command.

date Command

Simply prints today's date. Just type date on the shell.

tar Command

Combines several files into archive and compression if you want.

Parameters

-C



-Z

Compress the resulting archive using gzip package.

-j

Compress the resulting archive using bzip2 package.

-v

Verbose mode show the processed files.

-f

Write the output to a file and not to screen.

-x

Unpack files from archive.

Example

```
tar -czvf myfiles.tar.gz myfiles
```

```
root@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home/likegeeks
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # tar -czvf mytar.tar.gz Templates/
Templates/
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```

This command will pack and compress all files in folder myfiles to a compressed archive named myfiles.tar.gz.

```
tar-xzvf myfiels.tar.gz
```



```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # tar -xvzf mytar.tar.gz
Templates/
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```

This command will decompress the archive.

cat Command

Display file content to screen without limits.

Example

```
cat myfile.txt
```

```
root@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home/likegeeks
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # cat .profile
# ~/.profile: executed by the command interpreter for login shells.
# This file is not read by bash(1), if ~/.bash_profile or ~/.bash_login
# exists.
# see /usr/share/doc/bash/examples/startup-files for examples.
# the files are located in the bash-doc package.

# the default umask is set in /etc/profile; for setting the umask
# for ssh logins, install and configure the libpam-umask package.
#umask 022

# if running bash
if [ -n "$BASH_VERSION" ]; then
    # include .bashrc if it exists
    if [ -f "$HOME/.bashrc" ]; then
        . "$HOME/.bashrc"
    fi
fi

# set PATH so it includes user's private bin directories
PATH="$HOME/bin:$HOME/.local/bin:$PATH"
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```

less Command



End.

```
less myfile
```

grep Command

Searches for a string in the specified files and displays which line contains the matched string.

Parameters

-R

Recursive search inside subdirectories if found.

-i

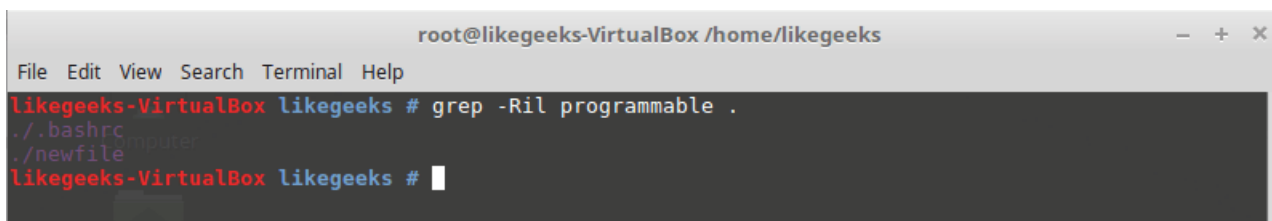
Insensitive search and ignore case.

-l

Display file name, not the text lines.

Example

```
grep -Ril mystring /home
```

A screenshot of a terminal window titled 'root@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home/likegeeks'. The terminal shows a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Search', 'Terminal', and 'Help'. The command prompt is 'likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #'. The user has entered 'grep -Ril programmable .' and the output shows three files: './.bashrc', './.vimrc', and './newfile'. The prompt is now 'likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #' with a cursor.

```
root@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home/likegeeks
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # grep -Ril programmable .
./.bashrc
./.vimrc
./newfile
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```



Used to change your user password.

```
root@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home/likegeeks
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # passwd
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```

du Command

Calculates the disk usage of a file or a directory.

Parameters

-h

Display human readable form.

-s

Summarize the output total size.

Example

```
du -hs /home
```

```
root@likegeeks-VirtualBox /home/likegeeks
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks # du -hs .
13M
likegeeks-VirtualBox likegeeks #
```



Reboot the system immediately. Just type reboot.

halt Command

Shuts down the system, but make sure to close all of your files to avoid data loss.

That was just some of the main Linux commands.

Notice that, if you forget any command parameters, just type the command with `--help` as a parameter and it will list the used parameters so you don't have to remember all those parameters at the beginning.

```
cat --help
```

Main Linux Commands Easy Guide



to be continued.

Basic Linux commands part2

**Admin**<https://likegeeks.com>

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📅 2017-02-27 👤 admin

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**Pratik Bandarkar** — indeed :) thanks for reply. I have just started with the series.

