

THE LINUX



COMMANDS HANDBOOK

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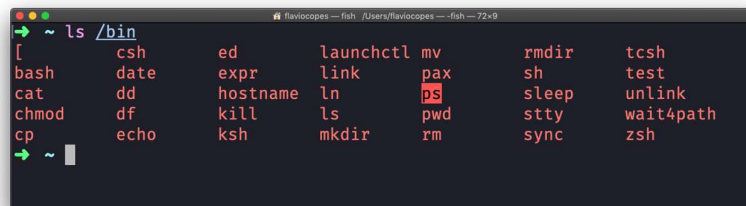
ls

Inside a folder you can list all the files that the folder contains using the `ls` command:

```
ls
```

If you add a folder name or path, it will print that folder contents:

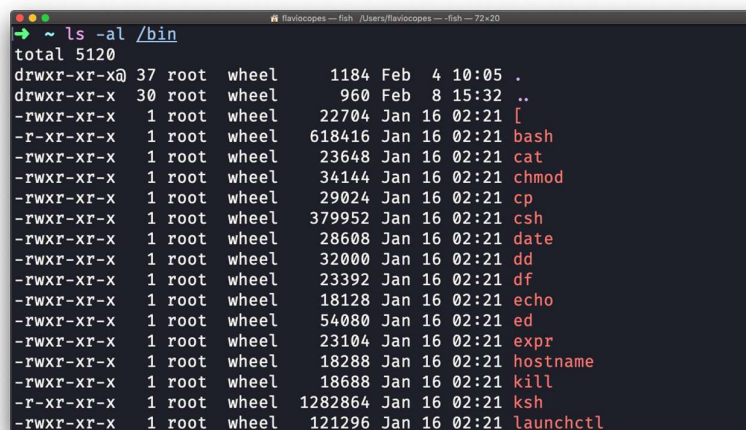
```
ls /bin
```



```
→ ~ ls /bin
[
bash      csh      ed        launchctl mv        rmdir     tcsh
cat       date     expr      link      pax       sh         test
chmod     dd       hostname ln        ps         sleep      unlink
cp        df       kill      ls        pwd        stty       wait4path
          echo     ksh       mkdir     rm         sync       zsh
```

`ls` accepts a lot of options. One of my favorite options combinations is `-al`. Try it:

```
ls -al /bin
```



```
→ ~ ls -al /bin
total 5120
drwxr-xr-x@ 37 root  wheel   1184 Feb  4 10:05 .
drwxr-xr-x  30 root  wheel    960 Feb  8 15:32 ..
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  22704 Jan 16 02:21 [
-r-xr-xr-x   1 root  wheel 618416 Jan 16 02:21 bash
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  23648 Jan 16 02:21 cat
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  34144 Jan 16 02:21 chmod
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  29024 Jan 16 02:21 cp
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel 379952 Jan 16 02:21 csh
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  28608 Jan 16 02:21 date
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  32000 Jan 16 02:21 dd
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  23392 Jan 16 02:21 df
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  18128 Jan 16 02:21 echo
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  54080 Jan 16 02:21 ed
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  23104 Jan 16 02:21 expr
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  18288 Jan 16 02:21 hostname
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  18688 Jan 16 02:21 kill
-r-xr-xr-x   1 root  wheel 1282864 Jan 16 02:21 ksh
-rwxr-xr-x   1 root  wheel  121296 Jan 16 02:21 launchctl
```

compared to the plain `ls`, this returns much more information.

You have, from left to right:

- the file permissions (and if your system supports ACLs, you get an ACL flag as well) the number of links to that file the owner of the file the group of the file the file size in bytes the file modified datetime the file name
-
- This set of data is generated by the `l` option.
- The `a` option instead also shows the hidden files.

Hidden files are files that start with a dot (`.`).