

Linux Commands

Following are Linux commands which are commonly used. This list is helpful for beginners and professionals both.

| Commands | Description |
|---------------------------------|--|
| alias | Converts complex commands into simpler one. |
| bzip2 / bunzip2 | Compresses a file / Deompress a bzip2 file. |
| bzcat / bzmoe | Displays files compressed with bzip2. |
| cal | Displays calendar. |
| cat | It is a multi-function command. |
| cd | Changes current working directory. |
| chage | Sets an expiration date for a user account. |
| chgrp | Changes group. |
| chmod | Changes permission for a file or directory. |
| chown | Changes the owner of a file or directory. |
| chsh | Changes the shell. |
| clear | Clears the terminal. |
| comm | Compares two streams or files. |
| cp | Copies file content from one file to other file. |
| cut | Used to display desired column from a file. |
| date | Displays current date. |
| df | Checks the disk space in system. |
| echo | Prints the typed word on terminal. |
| exit | Exits from the current user group to the last group. |
| export | Exports shell variables to other shell. |
| file | Displays the type of file. |
| find | Finds files for a particular search. |
| gpasswd | Transfers group membership to another user. |
| grep | Filters lines of text containing a certain string. |
| groupadd | Creates a group. |
| groupdel | Permanently removes a group. |
| groupmod | Changes group name. |
| groups | Displays the group name to which current user belongs to. |
| gzip / gunzip | Compresses a file / Decompress a gzip file. |
| head | Displays first ten lines of a file. |
| history | Displays older commands from shell command history. |
| HISTSIZE | Determines the number of commands to be stored in current environment. |
| HISTFILE | Displays the file that contains the history. |
| HISTFILESIZE | Sets the number of commands kept in history file. |
| id | Tells about the user's id in the system. |
| less | Displays file content according to the width of the terminal. |
| locate | Searches a file in the database. |
| ls | Lists all the files of a directory. |

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| <u>man</u> | Displays the manual page for the specified command. |
| <u>mkdir</u> | Creates directory. |
| <u>more</u> | Displays one output screen at a time. |
| <u>mv</u> | Renames directories or files. |
| <u>od</u> | Displays a file content in octal format. |
| passwd | Set password for a user group. |
| <u>pwd</u> | Display the current working directory location. |
| PS1 | Change the prompt name in terminal. |
| <u>rename</u> | Renames more than one file at once. |
| <u>rm</u> | Removes a file. |
| <u>rmdir</u> | Removes a directory. |
| set -o noclobber | Prevents file from getting overwrite. |
| set +o noclobber | Allows overwriting in existing file. |
| set -u | Displays undefined variables as error. |
| set +u | Displays nothing for undefined variable. |
| set -x | Displays shell expansion. |
| set +x | Disables shell expansion. |
| <u>sed</u> | Performs editing in streams. |
| <u>sleep</u> | Waits for the specified number of seconds. |
| <u>sort</u> | sorts the content in alphabetical order. |
| su | Allows a user to run a shell as another user. |
| sudo | Allows a user to start a program with credentials of another user. |
| <u>tac</u> | Displays file content in opposite order. |
| <u>tail</u> | Displays last ten lines of a file. |
| tar | Compresses a directory. |
| <u>tee</u> | Puts stdin on stdout and then into a file. |
| <u>time</u> | Displays time taken to execute a command. |
| <u>touch</u> | Creates an empty file. |
| <u>tr</u> | Translates characters. |
| type | Displays information about command type. |
| <u>uniq</u> | Sorts and display multi times repeating lines only once. |
| unset | Removes a variable from shell. |
| useradd | Adds users. |
| userdel | Deletes users. |
| usermod | Modifies the properties of a user. |
| vi | Opens vi editor to write a program. |
| w | Displays who is logged on and what are they doing. |
| <u>wc</u> | Counts words, lines and characters. |
| who | Tells who is logged on the system. |
| whoami | Tells the name of the user. |
| who am i | Displays the line pointing to your current session. |
| <u>zcat / zmore</u> | Views the files compressed with gzip. |

Linux Symbols

| Symbols | Function |
|--------------------------------|--|
| & (ampersand) | Returns the shell prompt back without waiting for the command to finish. |
| ; (semicolon) | Write two or more commands on the same line separated by (;). |
| \$? (dollar question mark) | Exit code of prevoius command is stored in the form of 0 or 1. |
| (double vertical bar) | Represent a logical OR. |
| && (double ampersand) | Represent a logical AND. |
| # (pound sign) | Consider the words typed after it as comment. |
| \ (escaping special character) | Enable the use of control characters. |
| *(asterisk) | Generate output matching to the specified * with any number of characters. |
| ? (question mark) | Generate output matching to the specified ? with exaxtly one character. |
| [] (square brackets) | Generate output matching any number of characters between the []. |
| !! (bang bang) | Repeat last command in bash. |
| ! (bang) | Repeat commands other than the last one in bash. |