RED HAT Linux Lab

Basic Commands

Linux commands

LS

- List the contents of the folder from which it runs.
- **Syntax:** ls
- **Example:**
  - ls –l
  - ls -a

MKDIR

- The "mkdir" (Make directory) command create a new directory.
- If directory already exists, it will return an error message "cannot create folder, folder already exists".
- **Syntax:** mkdir directory_name
- **Example:** mkdir student

CAT

- It is used to create a file with content.
- And can concatenate two or more file contents.
- **Syntax:** cat > filename
- **Example:** cat > file1

TOUCH

- It is used to create file without content.
- **Syntax:** touch filename
- **Example:** touch file1

CP

- It copies a file from one location to another location.
- **Syntax:** cp src_file desti_file
- **Example:** cp file1 file2

CD

- It is used for changing the directory.
- **Syntax:** cd dir_name
- **Example:** cd student

MV

- The "**mv**" command moves a file from one location to another location.

- **Syntax:** mv source destination

- **Example:** mv file1 student

PWD

- It prints the current working directory with full path name from terminal.

- **Syntax:** pwd

WHEREIS

- It is used to locate the Sources and Manual Pages of the command.

- **Syntax:** whereis command

- **Example:** whereis cat

WHATIS

- It is helpful to get brief information about Linux commands.
- **Syntax:** whatis command
- **Example:** whatis cp

WHICH

- It is used to locate executables in the system.
- It allows user to pass several command names as arguments to get their paths in the system.
- **Syntax:** which command
- **Example:** which ls

MAN

- It provides online documentation for all the possible options with a command and its usages.

- **Syntax:** man command

- **Example:** man cat

INFO

- It provides online documentation for all the commands but in a better structured way.
- **Syntax:** info command
- **Example:** info cat

WHOAMI

- It is used to find out the current user of the terminal.

- **Syntax:** whoami

BC

- It means the basic calculator, used for the basic calculations.

- **Syntax:** bc

GREP

- It searches the given file for lines containing a match to the given strings or words.

- **Syntax:** grep word filename

- **Example:** grep m file2

HEAD

- It prints the first 10 lines of the given file.
- **Syntax:** head filename
- **Example:** head stu

TAIL

- It prints the last 10 lines of the given file.
- **Syntax:** head filename
- **Example:** head std

TAC

- It prints content of the given file in reverse order.
- **Syntax:** tac filename
- **Example:** tac kk

ECHO

- Prints a text on the standard output.
- However in an interactive script, echo passes the message to the user through terminal.
- **Syntax:** echo message
- **Example:** echo hello class

DF

- Report disk usages of file system.
- Useful for user as well as System Administrator to keep track of their disk usages.
- **Syntax:** df

DU

- Estimate files space usage.
- **df** only reports usage statistics on file systems, while '**du**', on the other hand, measures directory contents.
- **Syntax:** du

PS

- **ps** (**Process**) gives the status of running processes with a unique **Id** called **PID**.

- **Syntax:** ps

ALIAS

- It is a built in shell command that lets you assign name for a long command or frequently used command.

- **Syntax:** alias aliasname command

- **Example:** alias q=ls-l

UNAME

- The "**uname**" command stands for **Unix Name**, print detailed information about the machine name, Operating System and Kernel.

- **Syntax:** uname

SUDO

- It allows a permitted user to execute a command as the super user or another user.
- **Syntax:** sudo cmd
- **Example:** sudo passwd

SU

- It is used to run shell with substitute user and group IDs.
- It helps to change login session's owner without the owner having to first logout of that session.
- **Syntax:** su user
- **Example:** su user1

HISTORY

- It prints the history of long list of executed commands in terminal.

- **Syntax:** history

PASSWD

- It is used for changing the passwd.
- You must know the current passwd for the security reason.
- **Syntax:** passwd

DATE

- It print the current date and time on the standard output & can further be set.
- **Syntax:** date
- **To set date:** date - -set='14 may 2013 13:57'

CAL

- It is used to display calendar of the present month or any other month.
- **Syntax:** cal
- **Example:** 3 1991

CLEAR

- It is used to clear the screen.

- **Syntax:** clear