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Linux Command Manual

A Comprehensive Guide to Essential Linux Commands

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1. File System Navigation & Management

- 1. pwd
 - a. Definition: Print the current working directory.
 - b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~/Downloads$ pwd
/home/cyril/Downloads
```

- 2. ls
- a. Definition: List files/directories. (1s -1 for details, 1s -a for hidden files).
- b. Example:

- 3. **cd**
- a. Definition: Change directory. (cd ~ for home, cd . . to move up).
- b. Example:
- C.
- 4. mkdir
 - a. Definition: Create a directory.
 - b. Example

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~/Downloads$ mkdir new_directory
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~/Downloads$ ls
new_directory
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~/Downloads$
```

5. rmdir

C.

- a. Definition: Remove an empty directory.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~/Downloads$ rmdir new_directory
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~/Downloads$ ls
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~/Downloads$ S
```

- 6. **rm**
- a. Definition: Delete files/dirs. (rm -r for recursive deletion).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ rm new_file.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ls
100loop.sh
                            file3.txt
                                                              testfile4.sh
argument.sh
                Documents iterateOverFiles.sh
                                                              testfile.sh
busTicketSim.sh
                                                               testfile.txt
check_number.sh
                                                 testfile2.sh
                 file2.txt process_files.sh
                                                 testfile3.sh
cyril.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

7. cp

C.

- a. Definition: Copy files/dirs. (cp -r for directories).
- b. Example:

```
yril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ls
                                 file2.txt
                                                                    testfile.txt
argument.sh
                                 file3.txt
check_number.sh dummy_dir2
                                                      testfile2.sh
                dummy_file.txt
                                                      testfile3.sh
                                 process_files.sh
                                                      testfile4.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ cp dummy_file.txt dummy_file2.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ls
                             dummy file2.txt iterateOverFiles.sh snap
                                                                                 testfile.sh
100loop.sh
                                                                                 testfile.txt
argument.sh
                             dummy_file.txt
                                                                   testfile2.sh
                                                                   testfile3.sh
                             file2.txt
check_number.sh dummy_dir
cyril.sh
                             file3.txt
                                                                   testfile4.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

8. mv

C.

- a. Definition: Move/rename files/dirs.
- b. Example:

```
:yril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ls
                             dummy_file2.txt iterate0verFiles.sh snap
                                                                                 testfile.sh
argument.sh
                             dummy_file.txt
                                                                                 testfile.txt
busTicketSim.sh Downloads
                                                                   testfile2.sh
                             file1.txt
                                              process_files.sh
check_number.sh dummy_dir
                             file2.txt
                                                                   testfile3.sh
                dummy_dir2 file3.txt
                                                                   testfile4.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ mv dummy_file2.txt notsodummy_file.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ls
100loop.sh
                                 file2.txt
                                                      process_files.sh testfile4.sh
argument.sh
                                 file3.txt
                                                                        testfile.sh
                                                                        testfile.txt
busTicketSim.sh
                                 iterateOverFiles.sh
check_number.sh
cyril.sh
                                notsodummy_file.txt
                 dummy_file.txt
                                                      testfile2.sh
                                                      testfile3.sh
                 file1.txt
```

9. touch

C.

- a. Definition: Create an empty file or update timestamps.
- b. Example:

```
:yril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ touch new file.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ls
                            file3.txt
                                                 process_files.sh testfile3.sh Videos
                            iterateOverFiles.sh
                                                                   testfile4.sh
argument.sh
ousTicketSim.sh
                                                                    testfile.sh
                                                                   testfile.txt
check_number.sh
                            new_file.txt
cyril.sh
                 file2.txt
                                                 testfile2.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

10. **find**

C.

- a. Definition: Search for files/dirs. (find /home -name "*.txt").
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ find /home -name dummy_file.txt
/home/cyril/dummy_file.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

11. locate

C.

C.

- a. Definition: Quickly finds files using a prebuilt database (update with updatedb).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ locate dummy_file.txt
/home/cyril/dummy_file.txt
/home/cyril/notsodummy_file.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

2. File Content & Text Processing

12. cat

- a. Definition: Display file content.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ cat dummy_file.txt
Hello! :D
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
C.
```

13. **head**

- a. Definition: Show first 10 lines of a file (head -n 5 for 5 lines).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$ head stuff.txt
Phone
Wallet
Book
Desktop
Laptop
iPhone
Samsung
Frame
Wall
Door
```

14. tail

C.

- a. Definition: Show last 10 lines (tail -f for real-time logs).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ tail stuff.txt
Frame
Wall
Door
Bottle
Water
Food
Nuggets
Money
Bank
Card
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

15. Grep

- a. Definition: Search text patterns. (grep "error" file.log).
- b. Example:

cyrtl@cyrtL-VirtualBox:-\$ grep "error" /var/log/syslog
2025-05-17T09:03:41.994808+08:00 cyril-VirtualBox gnome-shell[2380]: MESA: error: ZINK: failed to choose pdev
2025-05-17T09:03:57.369328+08:00 cyril-VirtualBox tracker-miner-fs-3[2461]: (tracker-extract-3:2461): GLib-GIO-WARNING **
09:03:57.368: Error creating IO channel for /proc/self/mountinfo: Invalid argument (g-io-error-quark, 13)
grep: /var/log/syslog: binary file matches
cyril@cyril-virtualBox:-\$

3. Users, Groups & Permissions

16. useradd

- a. Definition: Create user (useradd -m username).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo useradd -m John
[sudo] password for cyril:
c. cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

17. usermod

- a. Definition: Modify user (usermod -aG group user).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo usermod -aG administrator John
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

18. userdel

C.

- a. Definition: Delete user (userdel -r username).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo userdel John
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

passwd

d. Change password.

e. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ passwd
Changing password for cyril.
Current password:
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: password updated successfully
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

19. groupadd

- a. Definition: Create group.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo groupadd modder
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

20. groupdel

C.

- a. Definition: Delete group.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo groupdel solder
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

21. groupmod

- a. Definition: Modify a group (e.g., rename).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo groupmod -n solder modder
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

22. gpasswd

C.

- a. Definition:Manage group passwords/members.
 - i. gpasswd -a username groupname (add user to group)
 - ii. gpasswd -d username groupname (remove user from group)
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo gpasswd -a John solder
Adding user John to group solder
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

23. **chmod**

С.

- a. Definition: Change permissions (chmod 755 file).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo chmod 755 stuff.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

24. chown

C.

C.

- a. Definition: Change owner (chown user:group file).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo chown Yoimiya:administrator stuff.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

25. charp

- a. Definition: Change group ownership.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ chgrp adm stuff.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

26. umask

C.

- Definition: Set default file permissions.
- Example: b.

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ umask 755
   cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ S
C.
```

4. Compression & Archiving

27. tar

- Definition: Archive files (tar -cvf archive.tar dir/).

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo tar -cv† archive.tar testdummy.txt
testdummy.txt
cvril@cvril-VirtualBox:~S
```

```
iterateOverFiles.sh Public
                                                                                               testfile.txt
                           dummy_file.txt
rgument.sh
                                                                               testfile3.sh
                           file2.txt
heck_number.sh dummy_dir
                           file3.txt
                                                                testdummy.txt testfile.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

28. **gzip**

d.

- Definition: Compress files (gzip file \rightarrow file.gz). a.
- h Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo gzip testest.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ls
                                             iterateOverFiles.sh Public
                                                                                                   testfile.txt
100loop.sh
                            dummy_file.txt Music file1.txt notso
                                                                                  testfile2.sh
                                             notsodummy_file.txt
argument.sh
                                                                                  testfile3.sh
busTicketSim.sh Downloads file2.txt
                                                                                  testfile4.sh
check_number.sh dummy_dir
                            file3.txt
                                             process_files.sh
                                                                   testdummy.txt testfile.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

29. gunzip

C.

C.

- Definition: Decompress . gz files.
- Example:

```
il@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo gunzip testest.txt.gz
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ls
                                                                                             testfile.txt
                                                                               testest.txt
                           dummy_file.txt
                                           notsodummy_file.txt stuff.txt
                                                                               testfile3.sh
                           file2.txt
                                                                               testfile4.sh
                           file3.txt
check_number.sh dummy_di
                                                                testdummy.txt testfile.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

30. zip

- Definition: Create ZIP archives (zip archive.zip files/).
- Example:

31. unzip

- Definition: Extract ZIP files.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$ sudo unzip archive_test.zip
Archive: archive_test.zip
replace testest.txt? [y]es, [n]o, [A]ll, [N]one, [r]ename: y
extracting: testest.txt
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$ ls
100loop.sh check_number.sh dummy_dir file3.txt process_files.sh testdummy.txt testfile.sh
archive_tar cyril.sh dummy_dir2 iterateOverFiles.sh Public testest.txt testfile.txt
archive_test.zip Desktop dummy_file.txt Music snap testfile2.sh TestFolder
argument.sh Documents file1.txt notsodummy_file.txt stuff.txt testfile3.sh Videos
busTicketSim.sh Downloads file2.txt Pictures Templates testfile4.sh
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$
```

Networking

C.

32. **ping**

- a. Definition: Test connectivity (ping google.com).
- b. Example:

33. ifconfig

C.

- a. Definition: Network interfaces (use ip addr on newer systems).
- b. Example:

```
l-VirtualBox:~$ ifconfig
enp0s3: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
          inet 10.0.2.15 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.2.255 inet6 fe80::a8c3:9d1:558d:2ef6 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>inet6 fd00::f818:dc7:c62:e74f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>inet6 fd00::2cf8:9220:a24:57f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>
          ether 08:00:27:3c:7c:02 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
          RX packets 145 bytes 66990 (66.9 KB)
          RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
          TX packets 219 bytes 33740 (33.7 KB)
          TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
          inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
          inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0x10<host>
         loop txqueuelen 1000 (Local Loopback)
RX packets 132 bytes 11753 (11.7 KB)
          RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
          TX packets 132 bytes 11753 (11.7 KB)
          TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

34. Ifonfic enp0s3

- a. Definition: Show specific info of 1 interface
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$ ifconfig enp0s3
enp0s3: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 10.0.2.15 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.2.255
    inet6 fe80::a8c3:9d1:558d:2ef6 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    inet6 fd00::f818:dc7:c62:e74f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>
    inet6 fd00::2cf8:9220:a24:57f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>
    ether 08:00:27:3c:7c:02 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 145 bytes 66990 (66.9 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 219 bytes 33740 (33.7 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

- cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~\$
- 35. sudo ifconfig [interface] [IP]
 - a. Definition: Assign a static IP address to an interface.
 - b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo ifconfig enp0s3 103.244.193.14
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ifconfig enp0s3
enp0s3: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 103.244.193.14 netmask 255.0.0.0 broadcast 103.255.255.2
    inet6 fe80::a8c3:9d1:558d:2ef6 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20link
    inet6 fd00::f818:dc7:c62:e74f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global
    inet6 fd00::2cf8:9220:a24:57f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global
    ether 08:00:27:3c:7c:02 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 147 bytes 67144 (67.1 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 223 bytes 34084 (34.0 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

c. cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$</pre>
```

36. sudo ifconfig [interface] down

- a. Definition: Disable a network interface.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo ifconfig enp0s3 down
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ifconfig enp0s3
enp0s3: flags=4098<BROADCAST,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 103.244.193.14 netmask 255.0.0.0 broadcast 103.255.255.255
    inet6 fe80::a8c3:9d1:558d:2ef6 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    inet6 fd00::2cf8:9220:a24:57f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>
    ether 08:00:27:3c:7c:02 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 163 bytes 69222 (69.2 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 265 bytes 39467 (39.4 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

- 37. sudo ifconfig [interface] up
 - a. Definition: Enable a network interface.
 - b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo ifconfig enp0s3 up
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ ifconfig enp0s3
enp0s3: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 10.0.2.15 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.2.255
    inet6 fe80::a8c3:9d1:558d:2ef6 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether 08:00:27:3c:7c:02 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 170 bytes 70744 (70.7 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 281 bytes 40988 (40.9 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

38. traceroute [IP]

- a. Definition: Trace the path packets take to a destination.
- b. Example:

39. nslookup [domain]

- a. Definition: Query DNS to resolve a domain to IP(s).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ nslookup youtube.com
Server: 127.0.0.53
Address: 127.0.0.53#53

Non-authoritative answer:
Name: youtube.com
Address: 142.251.220.142
Name: youtube.com
Address: 2404:6800:4017:800::200e
c. cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

40. dig [domain]

- a. Definition: Advanced DNS lookup tool (more detailed than nslookup).
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ dig youtube.com
; <<>> DiG 9.18.30-Oubuntu0.24.04.2-Ubuntu <<>> youtube.com
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 15571
;; flags: gr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1
;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
; EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 65494
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;youtube.com.
                                IN
                                        Α
;; ANSWER SECTION:
youtube.com.
                        114
                                IN
                                        A 142.251.220.142
;; Query time: 0 msec
;; SERVER: 127.0.0.53#53(127.0.0.53) (UDP)
;; WHEN: Sat May 17 18:41:31 PST 2025
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 56
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

6. Shell Scripting & Functions

7. File System & Quotas

- 43. quotacheck
 - a. Definition: Scan disk usage for quotas.
 - b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$ sudo quotacheck -cug /home
quotacheck: Mountpoint (or device) /home not found or has no quota enabled.
quotacheck: Cannot find filesystem to check or filesystem not mounted with quota option.
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$
```

44. quotaon

- a. Definition: Enable quotas.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo quotaon -av
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

45. repquota

C.

- a. Definition: Generate quota reports.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo repquota -u /home
repquota: Mountpoint (or device) /home not found or has no quota enabled.
repquota: Not all specified mountpoints are using quota.
```

46. setquota

- a. Definition: Assign quota limits.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$ sudo setquota -u Yoimiya 50000 60000 1000 1200 /home
setquota: Mountpoint (or device) /home not found or has no quota enabled.
setquota: Not all specified mountpoints are using quota.
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$
```

47. edquota

- a. Definition: Edit quotas interactively.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo edquota -u Yoimiya
edquota: Cannot open quotafile //aquota.user: No such file or directory
No filesystems with quota detected.
```

48. quota

- a. Definition: Show user/group quotas.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$ quota -u Yoimiya
quota: Cannot open quotafile //aquota.user: No such file or directory
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:-$
```

7. System Management & Package Control

49. **sudo**

- a. Definition: Execute commands as superuser.
- b. Example:

```
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$ sudo useradd -m John
[sudo] password for cyril:
cyril@cyril-VirtualBox:~$
```

50. sudo apt update

- a. Definition: Update package lists.
- b. Example:

C.

d.