

Linux Commands Cheat Sheet

1. ls (List Directory Contents)

Lists all files and directories in the current working directory.

Syntax:

ls [OPTION] [DIRECTORY]

Examples:

ls # Lists files and folders in the current directory

ls -l # Displays detailed information

ls -a # Shows all files, including hidden ones

ls -lh # Shows file sizes in human-readable format

2. cd (Change Directory)

Moves between directories.

Syntax:

cd [DIRECTORY]

Examples:

cd Documents # Moves into the Documents directory

cd .. # Moves one directory up

cd /home/user/Downloads # Moves to an absolute path

cd ~ # Moves to the home directory

3. cp (Copy Files and Directories)

Copies files or directories.

Syntax:

cp [OPTION] SOURCE DESTINATION

Examples:

cp file1.txt file2.txt # Copies file1.txt to file2.txt

cp -r folder1 folder2 # Copies folder1 and all contents into folder2

cp -i file1.txt /backup/ # Prompts before overwriting

4. mv (Move/Rename Files and Directories)

Moves or renames files/directories.

Syntax:

mv [SOURCE] [DESTINATION]

Examples:

mv oldname.txt newname.txt # Renames a file

mv file.txt /home/user/Documents/ # Moves file to another directory

mv *.txt /backup/ # Moves all .txt files to /backup/

5. rm (Remove Files and Directories)

Deletes files or directories.

Syntax:

rm [OPTION] FILE

Examples:

rm file.txt # Deletes file.txt

rm -i file.txt # Asks for confirmation before deleting

rm -r myfolder/ # Deletes myfolder and all contents



Be careful! Deleted files cannot be recovered.

6. *pwd (Print Working Directory)*

Displays the current directory path.

Example:

pwd

7. *mkdir (Make Directory)*

Creates a new directory.

Examples:

mkdir myfolder # Creates a folder named myfolder

mkdir -p parent/child # Creates parent and child directories if missing

8. *rmdir (Remove Empty Directory)*

Deletes empty directories.

Examples:

rmdir myfolder # Deletes myfolder if empty

rm -r myfolder # Removes folder and contents

9. *less, more, cat (Display File Contents)*

Examples:

less file.txt # View file page by page (Press q to exit)
more file.txt # Similar to less, but only scrolls forward
cat file.txt # Displays entire file content
cat file1.txt file2.txt > combined.txt # Combines two files into one

10. *man (Manual Pages)*

Displays help documentation for a command.

Examples:

man ls # Shows the manual for ls
man -k copy # Finds commands related to 'copy'

11. *whatis (Brief Description of a Command)*

Example:

whatis ls # Shows a short description of ls command

12. *su (Switch User)*

Switches to another user.

Examples:

su root # Switches to root user
su username # Switches to another user
exit # Returns to the previous user

13. passwd (Change Password)

Examples:

passwd # Changes the current user's password
passwd username # Changes another user's password (root access required)

14. useradd & userdel (Manage Users)

Examples:

sudo useradd newuser # Creates a new user
sudo passwd newuser # Sets a password for newuser
sudo userdel newuser # Deletes user
sudo userdel -r newuser # Deletes user and home directory

15. mount & umount (Manage Filesystems)

Examples:

sudo mount /dev/sdb1 /mnt/usb # Mounts a USB drive
sudo umount /mnt/usb # Unmounts a USB drive

16. df (Check Disk Space Usage)

Examples:

df -h # Shows disk usage in human-readable format
df -T # Displays filesystem type

17. shutdown (Power Off or Restart)

Examples:

sudo shutdown -h now # Shuts down immediately
sudo shutdown -h +10 # Shuts down after 10 minutes
sudo shutdown -r now # Reboots the system

18. apt-get (Package Management - Debian/Ubuntu)

Examples:

sudo apt-get update # Updates the package list
sudo apt-get install vim # Installs Vim
sudo apt-get remove vim # Removes Vim
sudo apt-get upgrade # Upgrades all installed packages

19. yum (Package Management - RHEL/CentOS)

Examples:

sudo yum update # Updates all installed packages
sudo yum install nano # Installs Nano
sudo yum remove nano # Removes Nano
sudo yum list installed # Lists all installed packages

20. wget (Download Files)

Examples:

wget https://example.com/file.zip # Downloads file.zip
wget -O custom_name.zip https://example.com/file.zip #
Saves file with custom name
wget -c https://example.com/file.zip # Continues an
interrupted download

21. gzip & tar (Compression and Archiving)

Examples:

gzip file.txt # Compresses file.txt
gunzip file.txt.gz # Decompresses file

tar -cvf archive.tar file1 file2 # Creates an archive
tar -xvf archive.tar # Extracts archive
tar -czvf archive.tar.gz folder/ # Creates a compressed archive
tar -xzvf archive.tar.gz # Extracts compressed archive

22. System Information Commands

Examples:

uname -m # Shows machine architecture
cat /proc/cpuinfo # Displays CPU info
uname -r # Shows kernel version
date # Shows current date & time

This cheat sheet covers essential Linux commands for file management, user control, package management, and system monitoring.