Linux and Bash Command Cheat Sheet: The Basics

Getting information

return your user name
```
whoami
```

return your user and group id
```
id
```

return operating system name, username, and other info
```
uname -a
```

display reference manual for a command
```
man top
```

get help on a command
```
curl --help
```

return the current date and time
```
date
```

Monitoring performance and status

list selection of or all running processes and their PIDs
```
ps
ps -e
```

display resource usage
```
top
```

list mounted file systems and usage
```
df
```

Working with files

copy a file
```
cp file.txt new_path/new_name.txt
```

change file name or path
```
mv this_file.txt that_path/that_file.txt
```

remove a file verbosely
```
rm this_old_file.txt -v
```

create an empty file, or update existing file's timestamp
```
touch a_new_file.txt
```

change/modify file permissions to 'execute' for all users
```
chmod +x my_script.sh
```

get count of lines, words, or characters in file
```
wc -l table_of_data.csv
wc -w my_essay.txt
wc -m some_document.txt
```

return lines matching a pattern from files matching a filename pattern - case insensitive and whole words only
```
grep -iw hello \*.txt
```

return file names with lines matching the pattern 'hello' from files matching a filename pattern
```
grep -l hello \*.txt
```

Navigating and working with directories

list files and directories by date, newest last
`ls -lrt`

find files in directory tree with suffix 'sh'
`find -name '\*.sh'`

return present working directory
`pwd`

make a new directory
`mkdir new_folder`

change the current directory: up one level, home, or some other path
`cd ../`
`cd ~` or `cd`
`cd another_directory`

remove directory, verbosely
`rmdir temp_directory -v`

Printing file and string contents

print file contents
`cat my_shell_script.sh`

print file contents page-by-page
`more ReadMe.txt`

print first N lines of file
`head -10 data_table.csv`

print last N lines of file
`tail -10 data_table.csv`

print string or variable value
`echo "I am not a robot"`
`echo "I am $USERNAME"`

Compression and archiving

archive a set of files
`tar -cvf my_archive.tar.gz file1 file2 file3`

compress a set of files
`zip my_zipped_files.zip file1 file2`
`zip my_zipped_folders.zip directory1 directory2`

extract files from a compressed zip archive
`unzip my_zipped_file.zip`
`unzip my_zipped_file.zip -d extract_to_this_direcory`

Performing network operations

print hostname
`hostname`

send packets to URL and print response
`ping www.google.com`

display or configure system network interfaces
```
ifconfig
ip
```

display contents of file at a URL
```
curl <url>
```

download file from a URL
```
wget <url>
```

Bash shebang

```
#!/bin/bash
```

Pipes and Filters

chain filter commands using the pipe operator
```
ls | sort -r
```

pipe the output of manual page for ls to head to display the first 20 lines
```
man ls | head -20
```

Shell and Environment Variables

list all shell variables
```
set
```

define a shell variable called my_planet and assign value Earth to it
```
my_planet=Earth
```

display shell variable
```
echo $my_planet
```

list all environment variables
```
env
```

environment vars: define/extend variable scope to child processes
```
export my_planet
export my_galaxy='Milky Way'
```

Metacharacters

comments
```
# The shell will not respond to this message
```

command separator
```
echo 'here are some files and folders'; ls
```

file name expansion wildcard
```
ls *.json
```

single character wildcard
```
ls file_2021-06-??.json
```

Quoting

single quotes - interpret literally
```
echo 'My home directory can be accessed by entering: echo $HOME'
```

double quotes - interpret literally, but evaluate metacharacters
```
echo "My home directory is $HOME"
```

backslash - escape metacharacter interpretation
```
echo "This dollar sign should render: \$"
```

I/O Redirection

redirect output to file
```
echo 'Write this text to file x' > x
```

append output to file
```
echo 'Add this line to file x' >> x
```

redirect standard error to file
```
bad_command_1 2> error.log
```

append standard error to file
```
bad_command_2 2>> error.log
```

redirect file contents to standard input
```
$ tr “[a-z]” “[A-Z]” < a_text_file.txt
```

the input redirection above is equivalent to
```
$cat a_text_file.txt | tr “[a-z]” “[A-Z]”
```

Command Substitution

capture output of a command and echo its value
```
THE_PRESENT=$(date)
echo "There is no time like $THE_PRESENT"
```

Command line arguments

```
./My_Bash_Script.sh arg1 arg2 arg3
```

Batch vs. concurrent modes

run commands sequentially
```
start=$(date); ./MyBigScript.sh ; end=$(date)
```

run commands in parallel
```
./ETL_chunk_one_on_these_nodes.sh & ./ETL_chunk_two_on_those_nodes.sh
```

Scheduling jobs with Cron

open crontab editor
```
crontab -e
```

job scheduling syntax
```
m h dom mon dow command
```
minute, hour, day of month, month, day of week
`*` means any

append the date/time to file every Sunday at 6:15 pm
```
15 18 * * 0 date >> sundays.txt
```

run a shell script on the first minute of the first day of each month
```
1 0 1 * * ./My_Shell_Script.sh
```

back up your home directory every Monday at 3 am
```
0 3 * * 1 tar -cvf my_backup_path\my_archive.tar.gz $HOME\
```

deploy your cron job
Close the crontab editor and save the file

list all cron jobs
```
crontab -l
```
