Linux Basic Commands Cheat Sheet

File & Directory Commands

ls - List files and directories
ls -l - Long listing with permissions

cd .. - Move up one directory

pwd - Show current directory

mkdir <dir> - Create a new directory

rmdir <dir> - Remove an empty directory

rm -r <dir> - Remove a directory and its contents

touch <file> - Create a new empty file
cp <src> <dest> - Copy files/directories

mv <src> <dest> - Move or rename files/directories

rm <file> - Delete a file

File Viewing & Editing

cat <file> - View file content

less <file> - View large files page-wise

head <file> - View first 10 lines tail <file> - View last 10 lines

nano <file> - Open file in Nano editor
vi <file> - Open file in Vim editor

Search

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find <path> -name <filename> - Search for a file
grep '<text>' <file> - Search text inside files
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grep -r '<text>' <dir> - Recursive search in directory

File Permissions

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chmod <perm> <file> - Change file permissions
chown <user>:<group> <file> - Change ownership
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System Information

uname -a - Show system info

top - Live system processes

htop - Interactive process viewer

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whoami - Current logged-in user hostname - Show system hostname

Process Management

ps aux - List all running processes

kill <pid> - Kill a process by PID
killall <name> - Kill process by name

& - Run command in background

jobs - List background jobs

fg - Bring job to foreground

bg - Resume job in background

Networking

ping <host> - Ping a host

ifconfig - Show network interfaces

ip a - Show IP addresses

ssh <user>@<host> - Connect to remote host via SSH

Package Management (Debian/Ubuntu)

sudo apt update - Refresh package list
 sudo apt upgrade - Upgrade all packages
 sudo apt install <package> - Install a package
 sudo apt remove <package> - Remove a package

Others

history - Show command history clear - Clear terminal screen

alias ll='ls -l' - Create alias

man <command> - Show manual for command