Top 300 Commands in Linux

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File and Directory Commands (1–60)

1. ls – List directory contents.
2. ls -l – List with detailed info.
3. ls -a – List including hidden files.
4. pwd – Print current directory path.
5. cd – Change directory.
6. cd .. – Move up one directory.
7. mkdir – Create a directory.
8. rmdir – Remove an empty directory.
9. rm – Remove a file.
10. rm -rf – Recursively remove directory.
11. cp – Copy file or directory.
12. cp -r – Recursively copy directory.
13. mv – Move or rename file/directory.
14. touch – Create an empty file or update timestamp.
15. cat – View file contents.
16. tac – View file contents in reverse.
17. more – View text one page at a time.
18. less – View text with paging controls.
19. head – View beginning of file.
20. tail – View end of file.
21. tail -f – Follow file real-time.
22. stat – Show file status.
23. file – Determine file type.
24. basename – Strip directory to show filename.
25. dirname – Strip last component of file path.

26. ln – Create links between files.
27. chmod – Change file permissions.
28. chown – Change file owner.
29. chgrp – Change group ownership.
30. umask – Set default file creation permissions.
31. find – Search for files.
32. locate – Find files using database index.
33. updatedb – Update locate database.
34. grep – Search text using patterns.
35. egrep – Extended grep with additional options.
36. fgrep – Fixed pattern search.
37. diff – Compare files line by line.
38. diff3 – Compare three files.
39. cmp – Compare two files byte by byte.
40. comm – Compare sorted files line by line.
41. tee – Read input and write to file and stdout.
42. wc – Count lines, words, characters.
43. cut – Cut sections from each line.
44. sort – Sort lines of text.
45. uniq – Report unique lines.
46. nl – Number lines in file.
47. join – Join lines of two files.
48. split – Split file into parts.
49. csplit – Split file by context.
50. head -n – Output first n lines.
51. tail -n – Output last n lines.
52. strings – Print text strings in binary.

53. stat – Display detailed file info.
54. watch – Execute a program periodically.
55. tree – Display directory structure as a tree.
56. rename – Rename multiple files.
57. xdg-open – Open a file with default app.
58. filefrag – Report file fragmentation.
59. lsblk – List block devices.
60. lsof – List open files.

Text Editing Commands (61–100)

61. nano – Simple text editor.
62. vi – Interactive text editor.
63. vim – Improved vi editor.
64. emacs – Powerful full-featured editor.
65. ed – Line editor.
66. sed – Stream editor for filtering text.
67. awk – Text processing and reporting.
68. printf – Print formatted text.
69. echo – Display a line of text.
70. cat > – Create file with redirected input.
71. crontab -e – Edit cron jobs.
72. alias – Create command shortcut.
73. unalias – Remove command alias.
74. history – Display command history.
75. fc – Fix command from history.
76. script – Record terminal session.
77. edlin – Legacy line editor.

78. mg – Lightweight Emacs-like editor.
79. joe – Text editor with WordStar keybindings.
80. pico – Simple text editor.
81. col – Filter reverse line feeds.
82. colrm – Remove selected columns.
83. expand – Convert tabs to spaces.
84. unexpand – Convert spaces to tabs.
85. recode – Convert files between character sets.
86. fmt – Simple text formatter.
87. spell – Spell check text file.
88. ispell – Interactive spell checker.
89. diffstat – Produce histogram from diff output.
90. filterdiff – Extract specific parts from diff.
91. patch – Apply diff file to original.
92. edlin – Obsolete line editor.
93. rpl – Replace strings in files.
94. tput – Terminal capabilities.
95. colcrt – Filter for CRT display.
96. colout – Colorize parts of text.
97. fmt – Format text paragraphs.
98. ptx – Produce permuted index.
99. sed -i – Edit file in place.
100. awk '{print $1}' – Print first column.

System Information Commands (101–140)

101. uname – Show system information.
102. uname -a – All available system info.
103. hostname – Show or set system host name.
104. hostnamectl – Control host name settings.
105. uptime – Show system uptime.
106. top – Real-time process monitor.
107. htop – Improved top utility.
108. dmesg – Kernel ring buffer messages.
109. lsusb – List USB devices.
110. lspci – List PCI devices.
111. lscpu – Display CPU architecture info.
112. free – Show memory usage.
113. vmstat – Report virtual memory statistics.
114. iostat – CPU and I/O statistics.
115. mpstat – CPU usage statistics.
116. ps – Report process status.
117. pidof – Find process IDs.
118. pgrep – Search for process by name.
119. pmap – Process memory map.
120. smem – Memory report per process.
121. lsmod – List loaded kernel modules.
122. modinfo – Display module info.
123. uname -r – Kernel release.
124. cat /proc/cpuinfo – CPU details.
125. cat /proc/meminfo – Memory details.
126. cat /proc/version – Kernel version info.

127. inxi – Full system overview.
128. hostname -I – IP addresses.
129. timedatectl – Time and date configuration.
130. systemctl status – Show systemd status.
131. journalctl – Query system logs.
132. last – Show last logins.
133. who – Show logged-in users.
134. w – Who and what they are doing.
135. watch -n – Run command repeatedly.
136. neofetch – Show system information.
137. screenfetch – Another system info tool.
138. lsb_release – Distribution info.
139. uname -m – Hardware architecture.
140. cat /etc/os-release – OS release info.

User and Permission Management (141–180)

141. useradd – Add new user.
142. adduser – Friendly user creation.
143. userdel – Delete user.
144. usermod – Modify user account.
145. passwd – Change user password.
146. groups – List user groups.
147. groupadd – Add new group.
148. groupdel – Delete group.
149. groupmod – Modify group.
150. gpasswd – Administer group passwords.
151. chage – Change user password expiry.

152. id – Print user identity.
153. whoami – Show effective username.
154. su – Switch user.
155. sudo – Execute command as superuser.
156. visudo – Safely edit sudoers file.
157. newgrp – Log in to new group.
158. getent – Get entries from system databases.
159. loginctl – Inspect/manage logins.
160. chmod – Change file permissions.
161. chown – Change file owner.
162. chgrp – Change file group.
163. setfacl – Set file ACL.
164. getfacl – Get file ACL.
165. umask – Default file permission mask.
166. pam_tally2 – Show failed login attempts.
167. faillog – Login failure log tool.
168. ssh-keygen – Generate SSH keys.
169. ssh-copy-id – Copy SSH key to remote host.
170. ssh – Secure shell remote login.
171. scp – Secure copy files.
172. sftp – Secure FTP.
173. chsh – Change login shell.
174. who – Logged in users.
175. w – Who is logged in with activity.
176. uptime – System uptime summary.
177. reset – Reset terminal settings.
178. tty – Print terminal name.

179. mesg – Control terminal write access.
180. write – Write message to another user.

Networking Commands (181–220)

181. ip – Show / manipulate routing, devices, policy routing and tunnels.
182. ifconfig – Configure network interfaces (older tool).
183. ip addr – Show IP addresses.
184. ip link – Show / set network link info.
185. ip route – Show / manipulate routing table.
186. ping – Send ICMP ECHO_REQUEST to network hosts.
187. tracepath – Trace path to a host (non-privileged).
188. traceroute – Trace route packets take to network host.
189. mtr – Combines ping and traceroute.
190. nslookup – Query Internet name servers.
191. dig – DNS lookup utility.
192. host – DNS lookup command.
193. netstat – Networking statistics (older tool).
194. ss – Better netstat replacement showing socket stats.
195. nmcli – Control NetworkManager from command line.
196. ethtool – Query / control network driver and hardware settings.
197. iwconfig – Configure wireless network interfaces.
198. iwlist – Get more detailed wireless info.
199. wpa_cli – Control WPA supplicant.
200. arp – Display / manipulate ARP cache.
201. route – Show / manipulate IP routing table (older).
202. telnet – User interface to TELNET protocol (not secure).

203. ftp – File Transfer Protocol client.
204. scp – Secure copy files over SSH.
205. sftp – SSH File Transfer Protocol.
206. rsync – Remote file and directory synchronization.
207. curl – Transfer data with URLs.
208. wget – Non-interactive network downloader.
209. nc – Netcat, read and write network connections.
210. ethtool – Network device settings.
211. hostname – Show / set system hostname.
212. dig +short – Short DNS responses.
213. ip neigh – Show / manipulate ARP table.
214. telnet localhost port – Test local ports.
215. whois – Query domain registration info.
216. arping – Send ARP requests to hosts.
217. socat – Multipurpose relay tool.
218. nmap – Network exploration and security auditing.
219. tshark – Terminal capture tool (Wireshark CLI).
220. tcpdump – Packet analyzer.

Package Management Commands (221–250)

221. apt update – Update package index (Debian/Ubuntu).
222. apt upgrade – Upgrade all packages.
223. apt install – Install package.
224. apt remove – Remove installed package.
225. apt purge – Remove including config files.
226. apt autoremove – Remove unused packages.
227. apt search – Search package in repos.

228. apt show – Display package info.
229. dpkg -i – Install .deb package.
230. dpkg -l – List installed packages.
231. dnf install – Install package (Fedora).
232. dnf remove – Remove package (Fedora).
233. dnf update – Update packages (Fedora).
234. yum install – Install package (older RHEL/CentOS).
235. yum update – Update system packages.
236. rpm -qa – Query all installed RPMs.
237. rpm -ivh – Install RPM package.
238. snap install – Install snap package.
239. snap list – List installed snaps.
240. flatpak install – Install Flatpak app.
241. flatpak list – List installed Flatpak apps.
242. zypper install – Install package (openSUSE).
243. zypper update – Update packages (openSUSE).
244. pacman -S – Install package (Arch).
245. pacman -Ss – Search package (Arch).
246. pacman -R – Remove package (Arch).
247. pacman -Syu – System update (Arch).
248. apk add – Install package (Alpine).
249. apk update – Update index (Alpine).
250. apk upgrade – Upgrade packages (Alpine).

Process and Job Control (251–280)

251. jobs – List jobs running in current shell.
252. bg – Send job to background.
253. fg – Bring job to foreground.
254. kill – Send signal to process.
255. killall – Kill processes by name.
256. nice – Run program with modified scheduling priority.
257. renice – Change priority of running process.
258. daemonize – Run program as daemon.
259. nohup – Run command immune to hangups.
260. disown – Remove job from shell's job table.
261. systemctl – Control systemd system and service manager.
262. service – Run a SysV init script.
263. journalctl -u – Show logs for service.
264. at – Schedule commands to run once.
265. batch – Schedule jobs with load threshold.
266. crontab -l – List cron jobs.
267. cron – Daemon to execute scheduled tasks.
268. pstree – Display process tree.
269. pgrep -l – List processes matching patterns.
270. pkill – Kill process by name.
271. timeout – Run a command with timeout.
272. watch – Execute command repeatedly.
273. strace – Trace system calls.
274. ltrace – Trace library calls.
275. perf – Performance analysis tools.
276. valgrind – Debug and profile programs.

277. systemd-analyze – Analyze system boot performance.
278. cgroups – Control groups resource management.
279. taskset – Set CPU affinity for a process.
280. ionice – Set I/O scheduling class.

Filesystem & Disk Management (281–300)

281. mount – Mount filesystem.
282. umount – Unmount filesystem.
283. df – Show disk space usage.
284. du – Show directory space usage.
285. fdisk – Partition table manipulator.
286. cfdisk – Curses based partition tool.
287. parted – Partition manipulation.
288. mkfs – Build a Linux file system.
289. fsck – File system consistency check.
290. blkid – Locate/print block device attributes.
291. resize2fs – Resize ext2/ext3/ext4 filesystem.
292. e2label – Change ext2/ext3/ext4 filesystem label.
293. losetup – Associate loop devices.
294. dd – Convert and copy a file at low level.
295. pv – Monitor data through pipeline.
296. badblocks – Search for bad blocks on device.
297. mkfs.vfat – Create FAT filesystem.
298. mount -t – Mount with specified filesystem type.
299. tune2fs – Adjust ext2/ext3/ext4 filesystem parameters.
300. quota – Display disk usage and limits.
