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Find out if shell command is aliased or not

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Q. Sometime I get confuses whether command is an alias or it is real command. How do I find out if shell command is aliased?

A: You need to use type command. It tells whether command is an alias, function, builtin command or executable command file.

For example:

\$ type --all ls

Output:

```
ls is aliased to `ls --color=auto`  
ls is /bin/ls
```

OR

\$ type alias

alias is a shell builtin

So for each command, it indicate how it would be interpreted if used as a command name. You can also try out following options:

- If the -t option is used, 'type' outputs a single word which is one of alias, keyword, function, builtin, file etc
- If the -p flag is used, 'type' either returns the name of the disk file that would be executed, or nothing if 'type -t NAME' would not return 'file'.
- If the -a flag is used, 'type' displays all of the places that contain an executable named 'file'. This includes aliases, builtins, and functions, if and only if the -p flag is not also used.
- The -f flag suppresses shell function lookup.
- The -P flag forces a PATH search for each NAME, even if it is an alias, builtin, or function, and returns the name of the disk file that that would be executed.

See also:

- [How Linux or UNIX Understand which program to run - PART I and II](#)

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