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Clear Linux / UNIX BASH Shell Command Line Cache / History

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Q. I just noticed [faq](#) about [clearing dns cache](#) ^[2] and there are lots of commands stored in my cache. Can you tell me the command to clear out my command history or cache from a shell prompt?

A. Many programs read input from the user a line at a time. The GNU history library is able to keep track of those lines, associate arbitrary data with each line, and utilize information from previous lines in composing new ones. Bash and other shell may use this history library. The default file is `~/.history` or `~/.bash_history`.



[1]

To display the history list with line numbers, enter

```
$ history
```

Output:

```
....  
..  
4  cd /tmp/  
5  wget http://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/cleaner-dashboard.1.1.zip  
6  unzip cleaner-dashboard.1.1.zip  
7  su -  
8  vi /etc/httpd/testing.lan.cyberciti.biz.conf  
9  service httpd restart  
.....  
..  
997 vnstat -m -i eth1  
998 date  
999 yum update  
1000 w  
1001 ~/scripts/clean.cache rss squid web  
1002 history
```

Note: Lines listed with the a * have been modified.

To clear the history, enter:

```
$ history -c
```

The `-c` option causes the history list to be cleared by deleting all of the entries. For more information, enter:

```
$ help history
```

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URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-flush-clearing-command-line-cache/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/bash-shell/>

[2] clearing dns cache: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel-debian-ubuntu-flush-clear-dns-cache/>

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