Quality-of-Life & Modern CLI Helpers (Optional)

Linux Commands Course · Section 20

IDSchool

Quick References — tldr

tldr provides concise, example-driven help pages for common commands.

Install it:

```
sudo apt install tldr
# or
pip install tldr
```

Usage:

```
tldr tar
tldr grep
```

Example output for tldr tar:

```
tar — Archiving utility
Examples:
```

Faster File Searching — fd

`fd` is a simple, fast, user-friendly alternative to `find`.

Install (Debian/Ubuntu):

```
sudo apt install fd-find
```

Basic usage:

```
fd main
fd -e txt -e md
```

- Ignores `.gitignore`-excluded files by default
- Colorful output
- Much faster than `find` for interactive use

You might need to symlink for convenience:

Faster Grep — ripgrep (rg)

ripgrep (rg) is a blazing-fast alternative to grep that respects .gitignore and highlights matches.

Install:

```
sudo apt install ripgrep
```

Search recursively for text:

```
rg "TODO"
```

Limit by file type:

```
rg "error" --type py
```

Count matches per file:

Better Cat — bat

bat enhances cat with syntax highlighting, line numbers, and paging.

Install:

```
sudo apt install bat
```

Usage:

```
bat script.sh
bat /etc/passwd
```

You can also use it like cat in pipelines:

```
bat --plain file.txt | grep keyword
```

Alias it for convenience:

Monitoring Tools — btop, nload, iftop

▓▓ btop

A colorful and interactive resource monitor.

```
sudo apt install btop
btop
```

Features:

- CPU, memory, disk, and network usage graphs
- Process viewer with search and sorting
- Mouse support and theme customization

▓▓ nload

Real-time network bandwidth monitor (per interface).

```
sudo apt install nload
nload
```

Comparisons and Recommendations

Classic Tool	Modern Alternative	Benefit
man	tldr	Quick, example-focused help
find	fd	Faster, simpler syntax
grep	ripgrep (rg)	Fast recursive search with colors
cat	bat	Pretty printing and highlighting
top	btop	Graphical monitoring
iftop	(modern already)	Network inspection
nload	(modern already)	Lightweight bandwidth view

Bonus Tips

You can create an **alias group** for modern replacements:

```
alias cat='batcat'
alias grep='rg'
alias find='fd'
alias top='btop'
```

Store them in ~/.bashrc to persist.

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Recap

- **tldr** — short and friendly command reference
- **fd** — faster file search
- **ripgrep (rg)** — next-gen grep
- **bat** — colorful file viewer
- **btop**, **nload**, **iftop** — intuitive performance monitors

These tools make everyday terminal work faster, clearer, and more enjoyable.

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Congratulations!

You've completed the **Linux Commands Course** — from fundamentals to modern workflow tools.

Next: combine your skills to create your own shell utilities and automation scripts!