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

Linux Commands Course · Section 20

### Goal

Explore modern tools that improve your terminal experience — faster, more colorful, and user-friendly alternatives to traditional Unix utilities.

These are optional but highly recommended for daily productivity.

## Quick References — tldr

tldr provides concise, example-driven help pages for common commands. Install it: sudo apt install tldr pip install tldr Usage: tldr tar tldr grep Example output for tldr tar: tar — Archiving utility Examples: - Create a gzip-compressed archive: tar -czvf archive.tar.gz directory/ - Extract an archive: tar -xzvf archive.tar.gz Fast, clean, and easy to read — great for quick reminders.

# 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:

ln -s \$(which fdfind) -/.local/bin/fd

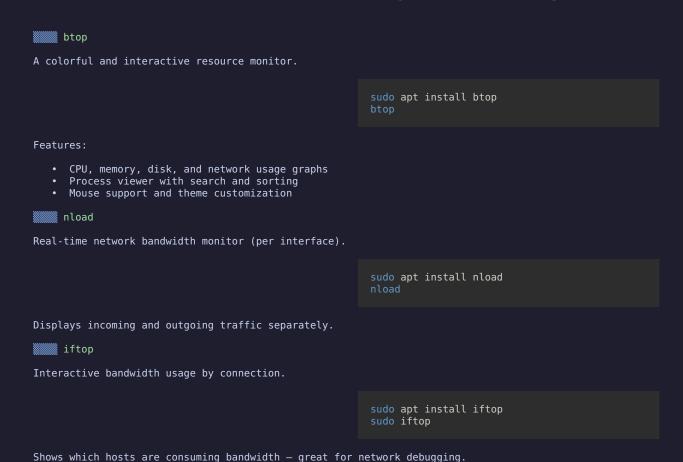
# Faster Grep — ripgrep (rg)

ripgrep (rg) is a blazing-fast alternative to grep that respects .gitignore and highlights matches. Install: sudo apt install ripgrep Search recursively for text: Limit by file type: rg "error" --type py Count matches per file: rg -c "pattern" Faster than both grep and ack.

## 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:			
	batplain file.txt   grep keyword		
Alias it for convenience:			
	alias cat='batcat'		

## Monitoring Tools — btop, nload, iftop



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# **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.

### 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.

### **Practice**

- Use tldr tar to review archive usage.
   Search for a keyword in your home directory using rg.
   Replace find commands with fd.
   Try viewing scripts with bat.
   Monitor network traffic with nload or iftop.
   Explore system performance interactively using btop.

# **Congratulations!**

You've completed the  ${f Linux}$   ${f Commands}$   ${f Course}$  — from fundamentals to modern workflow tools.

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