Linux Commands Cheat Sheet for DevOps

File & Directory Management

Is -I
list files with permissions, ownership, size, date
cd /path
change directory
pwd
print working directory
mkdir dirname
create directory
rm -rf dirname
remove files/directories
cp -r src dst
copy files/directories
mv old new
move/rename files

File Viewing & Editing

cat file.log
view contents
less file.log
view with pagination
head -n 20 file.log
first 20 lines
tail -f file.log
live log monitoring
vim file.sh / nano file.sh
edit files

User & Group Management

whoami
current user
id username
show UID, GID, groups
adduser devopsuser
create new user
usermod -aG sudo devopsuser
add user to group
groupadd devops
create group
groupdel devops
delete group
passwd username
change password

Process & System Monitoring

top
real-time process monitoring
htop
better version of top (if installed)

ps aux | grep nginx check if process is running kill -9 force kill process free -h check memory usage df -h check disk usage du -sh /var/log check folder size

Networking

ip a
show IPs
ping host
test connectivity
curl -I URL
check HTTP headers
ss -tulnp
show open ports
scp file user@host
/path: copy file over SSH

Package Management

sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade update system (Debian/Ubuntu) sudo yum install httpd install package (CentOS/RHEL) dpkg -I | grep nginx list installed package

Services & Systemd

systemctl status nginx
check service status
systemctl start nginx
start service
systemctl stop nginx
stop service
systemctl restart nginx
restart service
journalctl -u nginx -f
follow service logs

Logs & Debugging

tail -f /var/log/syslog follow system log tail -f /var/log/messages check system events (RHEL/CentOS) grep ERROR /var/log/app.log search for errors dmesg | less

Compression & Archiving

tar -czvf backup.tar.gz /path
create compressed archive
tar -xzvf backup.tar.gz
extract archive
zip -r backup.zip /path
create zip file
unzip backup.zip
extract zip

Permissions

chmod 755 script.sh
change file permissions
chown user
group file : change ownership
ls -l
verify permissions

SSH & Remote Access

ssh user@hostname connect to remote server ssh -i key.pem user@hostname connect using SSH key scp -i key.pem file user@host /path: copy files with key

File Operations

Is -I
list files
cd /path
change directory
cp src dst
copy file
mv old new
move/rename
rm -rf dirname
delete dir

Monitoring

top / htop process monitoring df -h disk usage free -h memory usage tail -f file.log live log view

System & Services

systemctl status service check service systemctl restart service restart service journalctl -u service -f follow service logs

User & Permissions

Archiving

tar -czvf file.tar.gz dir compress tar -xzvf file.tar.gz extract