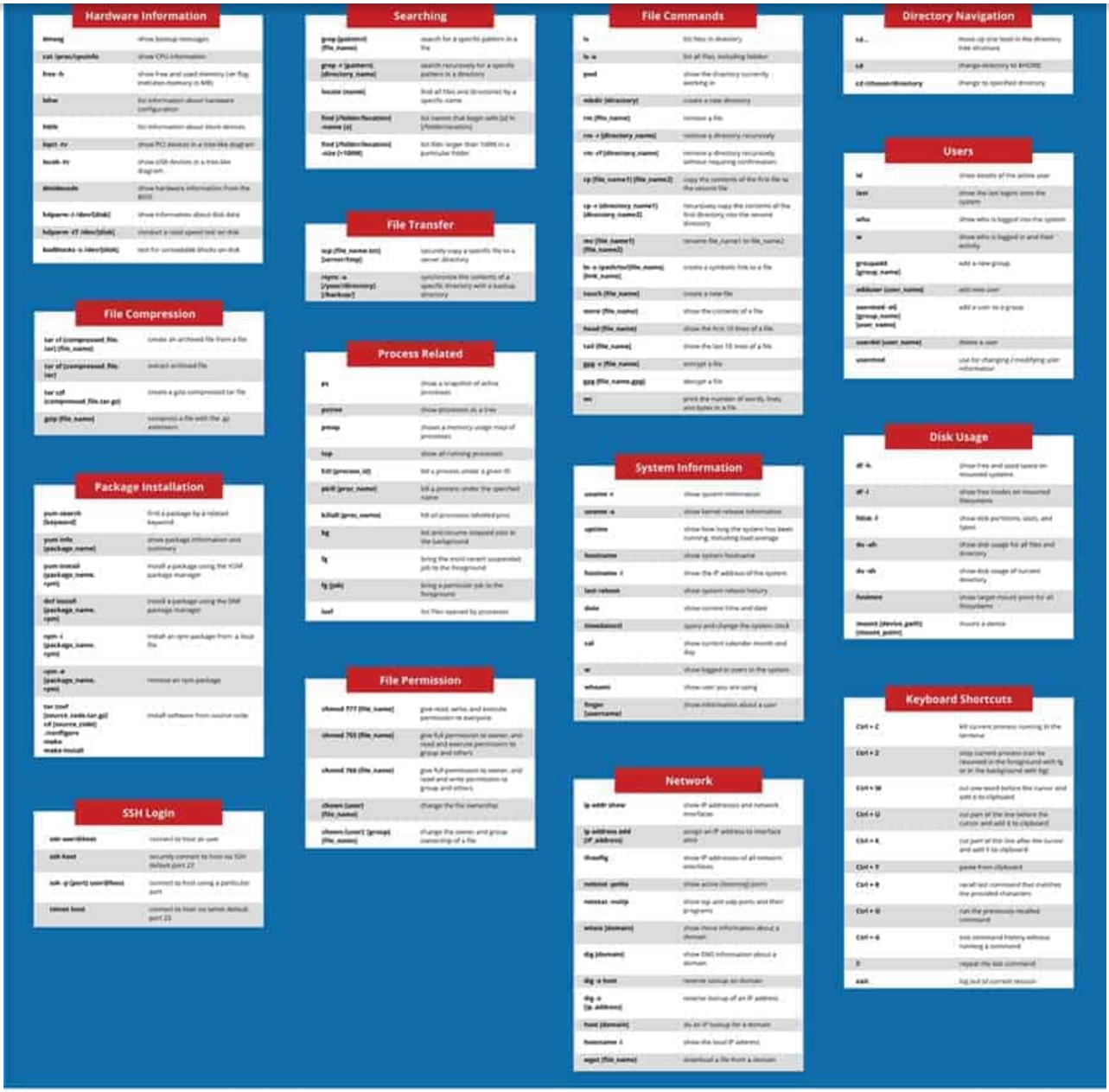
Important: Depending on your system setup, some of the commands below may require invoking **sudo** to be executed.

Linux Commands Cheat Sheet PDF

If you prefer having all the commands on a one-page reference sheet, we created a helpful **Linux command line cheat sheet**. You can save the **list of linux commands** in PDF format by clicking the **Download Linux Cheat Sheet** button below.

DOWNLOAD Linux Cheat Sheet



Linux Commands List

The commands found in the downloadable cheat sheet are listed below.

Hardware Information

Show **bootup messages**:

```
dmesg
```

See **CPU information**:

Display **free and used memory** with:

```
free -h
```

List **hardware configuration** information:

```
lshw
```

See information about **block devices**:

```
lsblk
```

Show **PCI devices** in a tree-like diagram:

```
lspci -tv
```

Display **USB devices** in a tree-like diagram:

```
lsusb -tv
```

Show **hardware information** from the BIOS:

```
dmidecode
```

Display **disk data** information:

```
hdparm -i /dev/disk
```

Conduct a **read-speed test** on device/disk:

```
hdparm -tT /dev/[device]
```

```
badblocks -s /dev/[device]
```

Searching

Search for a specific pattern in a file with grep:

```
grep [pattern] [file_name]
```

Recursively search for a pattern in a directory:

```
grep -r [pattern] [directory_name]
```

Find all **files and directories related to a particular name**:

```
locate [name]
```

List names that **begin with a specified character `[a]`** in a specified location **`[/folder/location]`** by using the **`find`** command:

```
find [/folder/location] -name [a]
```

See **files larger than a specified size `[+100M]`** in a folder:

```
find [/folder/location] -size [+100M]
```

File Commands

List files in the directory:

```
ls
```

List all files (shows hidden files):

```
ls -a
```

```
pwd
```

Create a new directory:

```
mkdir [directory]
```

Remove a file:

```
rm [file_name]
```

Remove a directory recursively:

```
rm -r [directory_name]
```

Recursively remove a directory without requiring confirmation:

```
rm -rf [directory_name]
```

Copy the contents of one file to another file:

```
cp [file_name1] [file_name2]
```

Recursively copy the contents of one file to a second file:

```
cp -r [directory_name1] [directory_name2]
```

Rename `[file_name1]` to **`[file_name2]`** with the command:

```
mv [file_name1] [file_name2]
```

Create a symbolic link to a file:

```
ln -s /path/to/[file_name] [link_name]
```

Create a **new file**:

```
touch [file_name]
```

Show the contents of a file:

```
more [file_name]
```

or use the **cat** command:

```
cat [file_name]
```

Append file contents to another file:

```
cat [file_name1] >> [file_name2]
```

Display the **first 10 lines** of a file with:

```
head [file_name]
```

Show the **last 10 lines** of a file:

```
tail [file_name]
```

Encrypt a file:

```
gpg -c [file_name]
```

Decrypt a file:

```
gpg [file_name.gpg]
```

Show the **number of words, lines, and bytes** in a file:

Note: Want to read more about file creation? Check out an article about how to create a file in Linux using the command line.

Directory Navigation

Move **up one level** in the directory tree structure:

```
cd ..
```

Change **directory to `$HOME`**:

```
cd
```

Change location to a specified directory:

```
cd /chosen/directory
```

File Compression

Archive an existing file:

```
tar cf [compressed_file.tar] [file_name]
```

Extract an archived file:

```
tar xf [compressed_file.tar]
```

Create a **gzip compressed tar file** by running:

```
tar czf [compressed_file.tar.gz]
```

Compress a file with the `.gz` extension:

File Transfer

Copy a file to a server directory securely:

```
scp [file_name.txt] [server/tmp]
```

Synchronize the contents of a directory **with a backup directory** using the rsync command:

```
rsync -a [/your/directory] [/backup/]
```

Users

See details about the **active users**:

```
id
```

Show **last system logins**:

```
last
```

Display who is **currently logged into the system** with the who command:

```
who
```

Show which users are **logged in** and **their activity**:

```
w
```

Add a new group by typing:

```
groupadd [group_name]
```

Add a **new user**:

Add a **user to a group**:

```
usermod -aG [group_name] [user_name]
```

Temporarily **elevate user privileges** to superuser or root using the sudo command:

```
sudo [command_to_be_executed_as_superuser]
```

Delete a user:

```
userdel [user_name]
```

Modify user information with:

```
usermod
```

Note: If you want to learn more about users and groups, take a look at our article on how to add a user to a group in Linux.

Package Installation

List all installed packages with **yum**:

```
yum list installed
```

Find a package by a **related keyword**:

```
yum search [keyword]
```

Show **package information and summary**:

Install a package using the **YUM package manager**:

```
yum install [package_name.rpm]
```

Install a package using the **DNF package manager**:

```
dnf install [package_name.rpm]
```

Install a package using the **APT package manager**:

```
apt-get install [package_name]
```

Install an `.rpm` package from a local file:

```
rpm -i  [package_name.rpm]
```

Remove an `.rpm` package:

```
rpm -e [package_name.rpm]
```

Install software from **source code**:

```
tar zxvf [source_code.tar.gz]
cd [source_code]
./configure
make
make install
```

Process Related

See a **snapshot of active processes**:

```
ps
```

```
pstree
```

Display a **memory usage map** of processes:

```
pmap
```

See **all running processes**:

```
top
```

Terminate a Linux process under a **given ID**:

```
kill [process_id]
```

Terminate a process under a **specific name**:

```
pkill [proc_name]
```

Terminate all processes **labelled "proc"**:

```
killall [proc_name]
```

List and resume stopped jobs in the background:

```
bg
```

Bring the most **recently suspended job to the foreground**:

```
fg
```

Bring a **particular job to the foreground**:

```
fg [job]
```

List **files opened by running processes**:

```
lsof
```

Note: If you want to learn more about shell jobs, how to terminate jobs or keep them running after you log off, check out our article on how to use disown command.

System Information

Show **system information**:

```
uname -r
```

See kernel release information:

```
uname -a
```

Display **how long the system has been running**, including load average:

```
uptime
```

See system **hostname**:

```
hostname
```

Show the **IP address** of the system:

```
hostname -i
```

List system **reboot history**:

```
last reboot
```

```
date
```

Query and **change the system clock** with:

```
timedatectl
```

Show current **calendar** (month and day):

```
cal
```

List **logged in users**:

```
w
```

See which **user you are using**:

```
whoami
```

Show **information about a particular user**:

```
finger [username]
```

Disk Usage

You can use the df and du commands to check disk space in Linux.

See **free and used space** on mounted systems:

```
df -h
```

Show **free inodes** on mounted filesystems:

```
df -i
```

```
fdisk -l
```

See **disk usage** for all files and directory:

```
du -ah
```

Show **disk usage of the directory** you are currently in:

```
du -sh
```

Display **target mount point** for all filesystem:

```
findmnt
```

Mount a device:

```
mount [device_path] [mount_point]
```

SSH Login

Connect to host as user:

```
ssh user@host
```

Securely **connect to host via SSH** default port 22:

```
ssh host
```

Connect to host **using a particular port**:

```
ssh -p [port] user@host
```

Connect to host **via telnet default port 23**:

Note: For a detailed explanation of SSH Linux Commands, refer to our 19 Common SSH Commands in Linux tutorial.

File Permission

Chown command in Linux changes file and directory ownership.

Assign **read, write, and execute permission** to everyone:

```
chmod 777 [file_name]
```

Give **read, write, and execute permission to owner**, and **read and execute permission to group and others**:

```
chmod 755 [file_name]
```

Assign **full permission to owner**, and **read and write permission to group and others**:

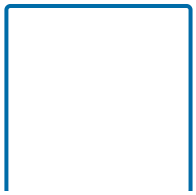
```
chmod 766 [file_name]
```

Change the **ownership of a file**:

```
chown [user] [file_name]
```

Change the **owner and group ownership of a file**:

```
chown [user]:[group] [file_name]
```



Note: To learn more about how to check and change permissions, refer to our Linux File Permission Tutorial.

Network

List IP addresses and **network interfaces**:

```
ip addr show
```

Assign an **IP address to interface eth0**:

```
ip address add [IP_address]
```

Display **IP addresses of all network interfaces** with:

```
ifconfig
```

See **active (listening) ports** with the netstat command:

```
netstat -pnltu
```

Show **tcp** and **udp ports** and their programs:

```
netstat -nutlp
```

Display more **information about a domain**:

```
whois [domain]
```

Show **DNS information** about a domain using the dig command:

```
dig [domain]
```

Do a **reverse lookup on domain**:

```
dig -x host
```

```
dig -x [ip_address]
```

Perform an **IP lookup for a domain**:

```
host [domain]
```

Show the **local IP address**:

```
hostname -I
```

Download a file from a domain using the `wget` command:

```
wget [file_name]
```

Linux Keyboard Shortcuts

Kill process running in the terminal:

```
Ctrl + C
```

Stop **current process**:

```
Ctrl + Z
```

The process can be **resumed** in the **foreground** with `fg` or in the **background** with `bg`.

Cut **one word before the cursor** and add it to clipboard:

```
Ctrl + W
```

Cut **part of the line before the cursor** and add it to clipboard:

```
Ctrl + U
```

```
Ctrl + K
```

Paste from clipboard:

```
Ctrl + Y
```

Recall last command that matches the provided characters:

```
Ctrl + R
```

Run the previously recalled command:

```
Ctrl + O
```

Exit command history without running a command:

```
Ctrl + G
```

Run the last command again:

```
!!
```

Sofija Simic

Sofija Simic is an aspiring Technical Writer at phoenixNAP. Alongside her educational background in teaching and writing, she has had a lifelong passion for information technology. She is committed to unscrambling confusing IT concepts and streamlining intricate software installations.

Log out of current session:

```
exit
```

Conclusion
Next you should read

The more you use Linux commands, the better you will get at remembering them. Do not s eir syntax; use our cheat sheet.

SysAdmin, Web Servers

V this helpful guide for the most common Linux commands.

Stop, and Restart Services in Linux

December 6, 2019

In most modern Linux operating systems, managing a service is quite simple...

SysAdmin, Web Servers

How to Check Memory Usage in Linux

June 18, 2019

In this tutorial, learn the five most commonly used commands to check...

READ MORE

SysAdmin, Web Servers

How to Remove (Delete) a File or Directory in Linux

August 8, 2019

This article lists the most commonly used commands and tools to remove...

READ MORE

Security, SysAdmin