

Common Linux Commands

Common Commands

To cover all the commands possible in Linux would take several books! Here I'm just going to list a few of the common ones and let you use your favourite search engine to find out the details:

Command	Description	Example Usage
ls	List files (-and their attributes) in a given directory	<code>\$ ls</code> <code>\$ ls -l /var/temp</code>
<u>cd</u>	Change the current directory to the one specified	<code>\$ cd</code> <code>\$ cd ..</code> <code>\$ cd /var/temp</code>
<u>pwd</u>	Display the current directory path	<code>\$ pwd</code>
more	Display the contents of a file, one page at a time. Press "SPACE" to show the next page or "q" to quit	<code>\$ more /var/tmp/myfile</code>
<u>chmod</u>	Change the permissions on a file or directory	<code>\$ chmod 755 myfile</code>
chown	Change the owner of a file or directory	<code>\$ chown fred:users myfile</code>
vi	Edit the file in the "vi" editor	<code>\$ vi /var/tmp/myfile</code>
df	List the filesystems on the system	<code>\$ df -h</code>
<u>echo</u>	Print out the text specified	<code>\$ echo "hello \$USER"</code>
<u>ps</u>	List running processes	<code>\$ ps -ef</code>
<u>kill</u>	Stop (abort) a running Process ID (PID)	<code>\$ kill 1036</code>
grep	Search for a string in a file	<code>\$grep "fred" names.txt</code>
<u> </u>	Known as a "pipe" : take output from one command as input to the next	<code>\$ps -ef grep "root"</code>
cp	Make a copy of an existing file	<code>\$ cp fred.txt bert.txt</code>
mv	Rename or move an existing file	<code>\$ mv fred.txt /tmp/bert.txt</code>
rm	Delete (remove) an existing file(s)	<code>\$ rm fred.txt bert.txt</code>
mkdir	Create a directory	<code>\$ mkdir backupDir</code>
rmdir	Delete (remove) a directory	<code>\$ rmdir backupDir</code>

Each of these commands can be used singly or in conjunction with each other (-see the chapter on [I/O Redirection](#) for details of the latter).