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#1 LINUX BLOG

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51 Useful Lesser Known Commands for Linux Users

Avishek | Last Updated: July 14, 2023 | Read Time: 5 mins | **Linux Commands** | **44 Comments**

Linux command line is attractive and fascinating, and there exists a flock of Linux user who are addictive to command Line. Linux command line can be funny and amusing, if you don't believe me, you can check one of our article below.

1. [20 Funny Commands of Linux or Linux is Fun in Terminal](#)

51 Lesser Known Commands for Linux

As well as extremely powerful, at the same time. We brought to you, five articles on "Lesser Known Linux Commands" consisting of 50+ lesser known Linux command. This article aims at concatenating all those five articles as one, and lets you know, what is where, in brief.

11 Lesser Known Commands – Part I

This article was highly appreciated by our readers, which contains simple yet very important commands. The article summaries as.

1. 1. **sudo!!** : Forgot to run a command with sudo? You need not re-write the whole command, just type "sudo!!" and the last command will run with sudo.
2. 2. **Python -m SimpleHTTPServer** : Creates a simple web page for the current working directory over port 8000.
3. 3. **mtr** : A command which is a combination of 'ping' and 'traceroute' command.
4. 4. **Ctrl+x+e** : This key combination fires up, an editor in the terminal, instantaneously.
5. 5. **nl** : Outputs the content of text file with lines Numbered.
6. 6. **shuf** : Randomly selects line/file/folder from a file/folder.
7. 7. **ss** : Outputs Socket Statistics.
8. 8. **Last:** Want to know history of last logged in users? This command comes to rescue here.
9. 9. **curl ifconfig.me** : Shows machine's external IP Address.
10. 10. **tree** : Prints files and folders in tree like fashion, recursively.
11. 11. **Pstree** : Prints running processes with child processes, recursively.

[11 Lesser Known Useful Linux Commands – Part I](#)

The great response, received on this article, and requests to provide another list of '**Lesser Known Linux Commands**', from our readers, we wrote next article of the series is:

10 Lesser Known Commands – Part II

This article again was warm welcomed. The summary of the article, below is enough to describe this.

1. 12. **<space> command** : A space before a bash command, is not recorded in history.
2. 13. **stat** : Shows the status information of a file as well as of a file system.
3. 14. **<alt>. And <esc>.** : A tweak which put the last command argument at prompt, in the order of last entered command, appearing first.
4. 15. **Pv** : outputs simulating text, similar to hollywood movies.
5. 16. **Mount | column -t** : Lists mounted file system, in nice formatting with specification.
6. 17. **Ctrl + l:** clear shell prompt, instantaneously.

7. 18. curl -u gmail_id –silent "https://mail.google.com/mail/feed/atom" | perl -ne 'print "\t" if //; print "$2\n" if /(.*)/;'. This simple scripts, opens up, unread mail of an user, in the terminal itself.

8. 19. screen : Detach and Reattach, long running process from a session.

9. 20. file : Outputs information, regarding types of file.

10. 21. id : Print User and Group Id.

[10 Lesser Known Linux Commands – Part 2](#)

Getting over 600 Likes on different social Networking sites and many thankful comments, we were ready with our third article of the series is:

10 Lesser Known Commands – Part 3

This article summaries as below:

1. 22. ^foo^bar : Run last command with modification, without the need of rewriting the whole command again.

2. 23. > file.txt : Flush the content of a text file, in a single go, from the command prompt.

3. 24. at : Run a particular command, time based.

4. 25. du -h –max-depth=1 Command : Outputs the size of all the files and folders within current folder, in human readable format.

5. 26. expr : Solve simple mathematical calculations from the terminal.

6. 27. look: Check for an English word, from the dictionary, in case of confusion, right from the shell.

7. 28. yes : continues to print a sting, till interrupt instruction is given.

8. 29. factor: Gives all the possible factors of a decimal number.

9. 30. ping -i 60 -a IP_address : Pings the provided IP_address, and gives audible sound when host comes alive.

10. 31. tac : Prints content of a file, in reverse order.

[10 Lesser Known Commands for Linux – Part 3](#)

Our Hard-work was paid by the response we received and fourth article of the series was:

10 Lesser Known Linux Commands – Part IV

Need not say, again this article was appreciated. The article summarises below:

1. 32. **strace** : A debugging tool.
2. 33. **disown -a && exit Command** : Run a command in background, even after terminal session is closed.
3. 34. **getconf LONG_BIT Command** : Output Machine Architecture, very clearly.
4. 35. **while sleep 1;do tput sc;tput cup 0 $(($(tput cols)-29));date;tput rc;done &** : The script outputs date and time on the top right corner of shell/ terminal.
5. 36. **convert** : converts the output of a command in picture, automatically.
6. 37. **watch -t -n1 "date +%T|figlet"** : Show animated digital clock at the prompt.
7. 38. **host and dig** : DNS lookup utility.
8. 39. **dstat** : Generates statistics regarding system resource.
9. 40. **bind -p** : Shows all the shortcuts available in Bash.
10. 41. **Touch /forcefsck** : Force file-system check on next boot.

[10 Lesser Known Effective Linux Commands – Part IV](#)

10 Lesser Known Linux Commands- Part V

The commands from here was getting biased towards scripts, yes single line powerful shell scripts and we thought to provide at least one more article on this series.

1. 42. **lsb_release** : Prints distribution specification information.
2. 43. **nc -ZV localhost port_number** : Check if a specific port is open or not.
3. 44. **curl ipinfo.io** : Outputs Geographical Information, regarding an ip_address.
4. 45. **find .-user xyz** : Lists all file owned by user 'xyz'
5. 46. **apt-get build-dep package_name**: Build all the dependency, automatically while installing any specific package.
6. 47. **lsof -iTCP:80 -sTCP:LISTEN**. The script, outputs all the service/process using port 80.
7. 48. **find -size +100M** : This command combination, Lists all the files/folders the size of which is 100M or more.
8. 49. **pdftk** : A nice way to concatenate a lot of pdf files, into one.
9. 50. **ps -LF -u user_name** : Outputs Processes and Threads of a user.
10. 51. **Startx — :1** (This command creates another new X session).

[10 Lesser Known Useful Linux Commands- Part V](#)

That's all for now. Don't forget to give us your valuable feedback in our comment section. This is not an end of **lesser known Linux commands**, and we will keep them bringing to you, from time to time, in our articles. I'll be coming with another article, very interesting and useful for our readers. Till then stay tuned and connected to Tecmint.com.

🏷 lesser known commands, linux commands

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Avishek

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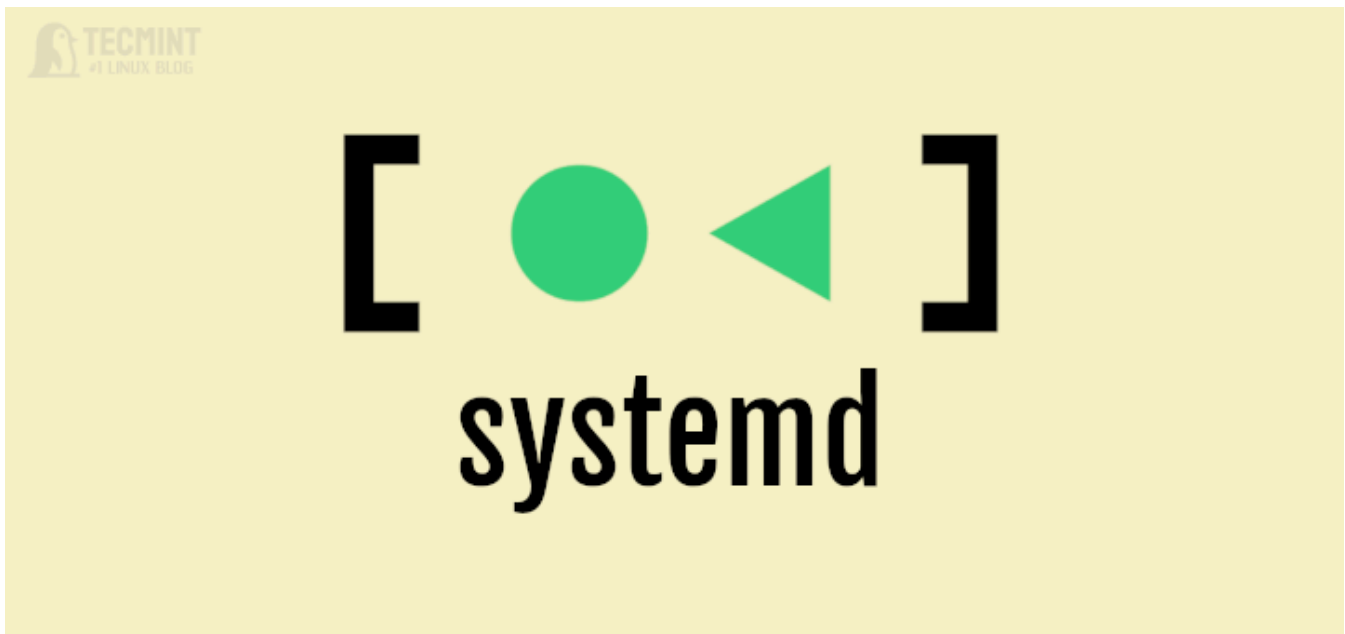How to Search Files by Name or Extension Using find Command

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Leave a Reply

jacob

August 5, 2019 at 2:29 pm

Hi Everyone,

If you had problem in "**loop login**" after execute "**startx**"

use:

```
mv .Xauthority .Xauthority.bak
in tty1 (ctrl+alt+F1)
```

thanks tecmint <3 .)

[Reply](#)

Changdev Gadhe

April 25, 2019 at 10:29 am

Hello Ravi,

I have Linux server of 64 cores. 32 and 32 core each and connected. Whenever I submit a simulation job for 32 CPUs, so everything is fine. I track its process use. It shows in each line each CPU using 100~99%, and at the 3rd line %CPU=49.5. but when I submit more jobs (previous 32) + 24 CPUs, I guess it goes to the same node, and reduce the performance of the simulation.

I checked using **top command**. it shows in first 2-3 lines, **%CPU=49.5**, but there are now 54 CPUs are running with **100~99%** utilization. So, my question is that what command should I type to know whether there are 2 nodes or different devices in my Linux server.

When I type the command **iostat**, it shows following output:

```
Linux3.10 (Redhatsrv) -x86_64 (64 CPU)

avg-cpu     %user      %nice    %system     %iowait      %idle
              46.72       0.51     0.50                   0.0
52.27
Device:       tps     kB_read/s    kB_wrtn/s    kB_read        kb_wrtn
sda          4.69      1.41          79.83                 969225
5493
sdb          1.23    68.00          160.22        46795308
```

If there are 2 device **sda** and **sdb**, then how can I submit job to **sdb** device, Give your expert opinion.

[Reply](#)

justahint

[January 7, 2018 at 9:44 pm](#)

Python –m SimpleHTTPServer is deprecated and python2 specific

python is normally linked to python3, so you need.

```
# python -m http.server
or
# python3 -m http.server
```

[Reply](#)

Derek Jenkins

[June 5, 2017 at 4:05 am](#)

On your `nc -ZV` example, do you rather mean `nc -z` (or possibly `nc -zv`)?

And for Pv — are you referring to pv (aka pipe viewer) or literally Pv?

Reply

Derek Jenkins

June 5, 2017 at 3:56 am

On bash 4.1.2, I'm not seeing that a space before a bash command omits that command from history. Can you please elaborate on your explanation?

Reply

Martin Naranjo

September 14, 2017 at 8:40 pm

Include this line:

```
export HISTCONTROL=ignorespace;
```

In **/etc/profile** or write it directly at the command prompt

If the variable HISTCONTROL includes value "**ignorespace**", lines which begin with a space character are not saved in the history list.

Reply

Geoff

January 2, 2017 at 3:24 pm

Change

25. du -h –max-depth=1

to

25. du -h –max-depth=1 Note that -m is not the same as –m. Use two of hex 2D.

Reply

Admin

Ravi Saive

January 3, 2017 at 11:01 am

@Geoff,

Thanks for pointing out, corrected in the writeup..

Reply

Jeff

December 14, 2016 at 6:49 pm

Regarding the first command, you can try "sudo!!" a thousand times, it does not work. I looked it up, and it's "sudo !!" (with a space).

Reply

Shridhar

July 27, 2016 at 11:55 am

In the bottom page(footer) , there is a line with blue bar "Preparation for the LFCS (Linux Fundation Certified SysAdmin) Exam " can see that the word "Fundation " is miss spelled. this is just suggestion

Reply

Admin

Ravi Saive

July 27, 2016 at 3:05 pm

@Shridhar,

Thanks a ton man, yes it was mis spelled and it should "Foundation", corrected...:)

Reply

kozaki

March 21, 2016 at 2:49 am

Holy nice! some really useful and quite a few I don't know yet. COol :)

Note the `python –m SimpleHTTPServer` needs python2.

Reply

Chib

March 5, 2016 at 11:03 pm

found a couple of commands that i'd forgotten about.

Reply

abhijith

March 1, 2016 at 11:09 pm

hello,

i am new to linux i am having a problem with some of these commands dont work even if i have entered them right please help

Reply

Admin

Ravi Saive

March 2, 2016 at 10:42 am

@Abhijit,

Could you share with us what problem you facing while executing these commands? some of commands needs to installed before executing them, you can install them using yum or apt package manager tool as per your distribution..

Reply

Paul

October 18, 2015 at 12:28 am

I found this very interesting, along with the other lists on this site. Thanks, for putting them together.

However, I found several typos including misspelled words. If you are interested I will detail them. Here's a few.

In the first paragraph "Linux user" should be "Linux users". Down through text commas are used improperly to break up the text.

Reply

Admin

Ravi Saive

October 18, 2015 at 1:38 pm

@Paul,

Thanks for findings, yes if possible can you detail them and send us at admin@tecmint.com, that would be very great help..

Reply

Mohit

September 22, 2015 at 2:48 pm

Thank you so much... very useful post

Reply

George D

[September 22, 2015 at 2:41 pm](#)

I am getting an error when I run the following:

Command: curl –u gmail_id –silent "https://mail.google.com/mail/feed/atom" | perl –ne 'print "\t" if //; print "$2\n" if /(.*)/;'
Response: bash: syntax error near unexpected token `('

Running Ubuntu 15.04.

Any idea what the problem could be?

[Reply](#)

Admin

Ravi Saive

[September 22, 2015 at 4:13 pm](#)

Try the following command and don't forget to add actual email also the quotes needed to be fixed..

```
# curl -u ravisaive@gmail.com  -silent
"https://mail.google.com/mail/feed/atom" | perl -ne 'print "\t" ;
print "$2\n" if /(.*)/;'
```

curl will need to have SSL enabled.

[Reply](#)

Edraz dequo

July 7, 2015 at 4:04 pm

very good

Reply

Avishek Kumar

July 7, 2015 at 8:33 pm

Dear Edraz dequo,

Very pleased to know you liked the post.

Keep connected for more such posts.

Reply

Mark

December 30, 2014 at 7:38 am

Nice work!

Reply

Avishek Kumar

December 31, 2014 at 3:29 pm

Welcome @ Mark

Reply

Hadi

October 17, 2014 at 2:39 pm

Hello

It was useful for me ;

Thank you

Reply

Avishek Kumar

December 31, 2014 at 3:29 pm

Welcome @ Hadi

Reply

Rodrigo Nascimento

July 30, 2014 at 6:23 pm

Nice one Avishek!

Very good :)

Reply

Avishek Kumar

July 31, 2014 at 5:16 pm

Thanks.

Thanks for appreciating @ Rodrido.

Reply

jaya

July 21, 2014 at 2:33 pm

Good One.

Reply

Avishek Kumar

July 21, 2014 at 5:44 pm

Thanks :)

Reply

jagadish

June 28, 2014 at 4:46 pm

hi sir

it is one of the best Linux site i have ever seen this is very use full for who want
learn Linux

sir i need your help to improve my knowledge on Linux i have done RHCE & RHCSA
certifications but i did't get enough confidence please tell how to prepare for
interview and what are concepts are important

Reply

faruk abdullah

January 15, 2014 at 12:15 pm

i'm not able to configure Local Yum reposotery. Please help.

Reply

Ashok Dobal

January 7, 2014 at 6:25 pm

Thankx Avishek good job!

Reply

Avishek Kumar

January 7, 2014 at 10:28 pm

Welcome @ Ashok Dobal.

Reply

MisterNiceGuy
December 31, 2013 at 5:18 pm

Great work Avishek- they are very helpful. I've been working on unix for several years but didn't know some of the above commands

thanks,

Reply

Avishek Kumar
January 4, 2014 at 3:49 pm

Thanks @ MisterNiceGuy,
It was very nice to hear from you.

Reply

Alikhan
December 29, 2013 at 11:48 pm

Hi., im from malaysia & im running fed19,
[root@my-fedora cappingpong]# yum update
Loaded plugins: axelget, fastestmirror, filter-data, keys, langpacks, local,
: priorities, refresh-packagekit, remove-with-leaves, show-leaves
adobe-linux-i386 | 951 B 00:00

fedora/19/i386/metalink | 9.3 kB 00:00

fedora | 4.2 kB 00:00

fedora-HandBrake-source | 2.9 kB 00:00

fedora-chromium-stable | 3.4 kB 00:00

fedora-source/19/i386/metalink | 8.4 kB 00:00

fedora-source | 3.1 kB 00:00

home_darkhado | 1.6 kB 00:00

Could not retrieve mirrorlist http://rpm.livna.org/mirrorlist-debug error was
14: HTTP Error 404 – Not Found

One of the configured repositories failed (Unknown),
and yum doesn't have enough cached data to continue. At this point the only
safe thing yum can do is fail. There are a few ways to work "fix" this:

1. Contact the upstream for the repository and get them to fix the problem.

2. Reconfigure the baseurl/etc. for the repository, to point to a working
upstream. This is most often useful if you are using a newer
distribution release than is supported by the repository (and the
packages for the previous distribution release still work).

3. Disable the repository, so yum won't use it by default. Yum will then
just ignore the repository until you permanently enable it again or use
–enablerepo for temporary usage:

yum-config-manager –disable

4. Configure the failing repository to be skipped, if it is unavailable.
Note that yum will try to contact the repo. when it runs most commands,
so will have to try and fail each time (and thus. yum will be be much
slower). If it is a very temporary problem though, this is often a nice
compromise:

yum-config-manager –save –setopt=.skip_if_unavailable=true

Cannot find a valid baseurl for repo: livna-debuginfo
please help me!!

Reply

Ravi Saive

December 31, 2013 at 4:49 pm

Remove livna repository using following command and try again update command.

```
# rm -rf /etc/yum.repos.d/livna.repo
```

Reply

Dave Rea

December 29, 2013 at 4:31 am

I have been using UNIX for 35 years and I did not know a few of those. Great work. Be careful of the capitalisation though e.g. Touch, Mount etc

Reply

Avishek Kumar

December 29, 2013 at 1:27 pm

Thanks @ Dave Rea, for the nice feedback. Sorry for that capitalization, actually most of the word processor automatically does this. Requesting admin to modify.

Reply

Mike

December 27, 2013 at 1:01 pm

good job!

Reply

Avishek Kumar

December 27, 2013 at 4:45 pm

Thanks @ Mike.

Reply

laike9m

December 25, 2013 at 8:17 pm

Great work!

Reply

Avishek Kumar

December 26, 2013 at 12:52 pm

Thanks @ laike9m, for the great response.

Reply

Got Something to Say? Join the Discussion…

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. We appreciate your decision to leave a comment and value your contribution to the discussion. It's important to note that we moderate all comments in accordance with our comment policy to ensure a respectful and constructive conversation.

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