

100+ Essential Linux Commands for Every Linux User

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Most Used Linux Commands							
1	ls	22	ifconfig	43	lsof	64	parted
2	pwd	23	ip	44	dig	65	wc
3	cd	24	wget	45	nslookup	66	ls
4	clear	25	curl	46	du	67	nmap
5	mkdir	26	apt	47	tree	68	dmesg
6	mv	27	apt-get	48	ss	69	chattr
7	cp	28	yum	49	partx	70	usermod
8	rmdir	29	dnf	50	uptime	71	free
9	touch	30	rpm	51	tr	72	cron
10	cat	31	alias	52	ping	73	mysql
11	echo	32	dd	53	zcat	74	sdiff
12	less	33	top	54	xargs	75	history
13	tar	34	useradd	55	rm	76	netstat
14	grep	35	sleep	56	stat	77	sftp
15	head	36	screen	57	who	78	tcpdump
16	tail	37	pv	58	locate	79	scp
17	sort	38	fgrep	59	host	80	rsync
18	ps	39	dir	60	find	81	fsck
19	kill	40	egrep	61	fuser	82	bc
20	df	41	ssh	62	at	83	chage
21	chown	42	fd	63	fdisk	84	ffmpeg

Essential Linux Commands

Linux is a popular open-source operating system that is based on the Linux kernel. It is widely used in enterprise environments to support production workloads and host crucial enterprise applications.

Initially, Linux targeted power users and enterprise environments. Its lack of a graphical display made it quite intimidating for most users. Administration of the system was purely done on the command line interface (CLI) which entails running commands on a black console.

Over time, Linux has grown in leaps and bounds and has seen its adoption by desktop lovers and home users. [Modern Linux distributions](#) provide a desktop environment that

enhances user experience and makes it easy especially easy for beginners to learn the ropes and use the system. Popular desktop Linux distributions include Ubuntu, Fedora, Debian, Zorin, and Elementary Linux.

Regardless of the numerous distributions that offer a GUI (Graphical User Interface) for user interaction, the most preferred way of running a Linux system is through the command line interface (CLI). Running commands is considered the professional way of managing a Linux system. After all, most of the VPS or cloud instances running Linux are only administered via the command line interface.

As such, having a good grasp of Linux commands will set you apart from your peers and provide you with crucial skills needed to manage a Linux system. Familiarity with working on the command line will also prove valuable as you scale the IT ladder and venture into other disciplines such as Cloud and Cybersecurity.

This section provides a list of essential Linux commands that will help you get started.

Linux Basic Commands

1	<code>ls</code> command	How to List Files and Directories in Linux – {15 Examples}
2	<code>pwd</code> command	How to Check Current Working Directory in Linux – {15 Examples}
3	<code>cd</code> command	How to Change Current Working Directory in Linux – {15 Examples}
4	<code>clear</code> command	How to Clear Terminal Screen in Linux – {4 Examples}
5	<code>mkdir</code> command	How to Create Directories in Linux – {6 Examples}
6	<code>mv</code> command	How to Move or Rename Files and Directories in Linux – {9 Examples}
7	<code>cp</code> command	How to Copy Files and Directories in Linux – {14 Examples}
8	<code>rmdir</code> command	How to Remove Empty Directories in Linux – {5 Examples}
9	<code>touch</code> command	How to Change or Modify Timestamps of File or Directory – {8 Examples}

10	<code>cat command</code>	How to Print or View Contents of File in Linux – {13 Examples}
11	<code>echo command</code>	How to Print Line of Text or String in Linux – {15 Examples}
12	<code>less command</code>	How to Read Contents of Text File in Linux – {6 Examples}
13	<code>tar command</code>	How to Create and Extract Tar Archive Files in Linux – {21 Examples}
14	<code>gzip command</code>	How to Use the Gzip Command in Linux – {13 Examples}
15	<code>grep command</code>	How to Search Text or String in Files on Linux – {12 Examples}
16	<code>head command</code>	How to Print First 10 Lines of Files in Linux – {6 Examples}
17	<code>tail command</code>	How to Print Last 10 Lines of Files in Linux – {6 Examples}
18	<code>cut command</code>	How to Cut Sections of Line in File – {8 Examples}
19	<code>tee command</code>	How to Use 'tee' Command in Linux – {8 Examples}
20	<code>sort command</code>	How to Sort Files Based on Sizes in Linux – {14 Examples}
21	<code>uniq command</code>	How to Remove Duplicate Lines in Linux – {8 Examples}
22	<code>ps command</code>	How to List Currently Running Linux Processes – {30 Examples}
23	<code>kill command</code>	How to Kill a Running Linux Process – {4 Examples}
24	<code>df command</code>	How to Check Disk Usage of Linux File System – {12 Examples}
25	<code>chown command</code>	How to Change File Owner and Group in Linux – {11 Examples}
26	<code>ifconfig command</code>	How to Configure Network Interface in Linux – {15 Examples}
27	<code>ip command</code>	How to Configure Network Interface in Linux – {24 Examples}
28	<code>wget command</code>	How to Download Files from Network in Linux – {10 Examples}
29	<code>curl command</code>	How to Transfer Data From or To a Server in Linux – {15 Examples}
30	<code>apt command</code>	How to Install Packages in Debian-based Systems – {15

		Examples}
31	<code>apt-get</code> <code>command</code>	How to Manage Packages in Debian-based Systems – {25 Examples}
32	<code>yum command</code>	How to Install Software Packages in RHEL-based Systems – {20 Examples}
33	<code>dnf command</code>	How to Install Software Packages in Fedora – {27 Examples}
34	<code>rpm command</code>	How to Install RPM Packages in RHEL-based Systems – {20 Examples}
35	<code>alias command</code>	How to Create and Use Alias Command in Linux
36	<code>dd command</code>	How to Learn dd Command in Linux – {15 Useful Examples}
37	<code>top command</code>	How to Monitor Running Linux Processes – {16 Examples}
38	<code>useradd</code> <code>command</code>	How to Create New Users in Linux – {15 Examples}
39	<code>sleep command</code>	How to Use “sleep” Command in Linux – {6 Examples}
40	<code>screen command</code>	Getting Started with Linux Screen Command – {20 Examples}
41	<code>pv command</code>	How to Monitor Progress of Data in Linux
42	<code>fgrep command</code>	How to Use fgrep Command to Search for Strings in Linux – {12 Examples}
43	<code>dir command</code>	How to Create New Directories in Linux – {8 Examples}
44	<code>egrep command</code>	How to Search Patterns in Files in Linux – {20 Examples}
45	<code>ssh command</code>	Basic SSH Command Usage and Configuration in Linux
46	<code>fd command</code>	A Simple and Fast Alternative to Find Command
47	<code>lsof command</code>	How to List Open Files in Linux – {10 Examples}
48	<code>dig command</code>	How to Query DNS in Linux – {10 Examples}

49	<code>nslookup</code> command	How to Query Internet Domain Name Servers – {8 Examples}
50	<code>du</code> command	How to Find Disk Usage of Files and Directories – {10 Examples}
51	<code>tree</code> command	How to List Directory in Tree-like Format in Linux – {12 Examples}
52	<code>ss</code> command	How to Monitor Network Connection Statistics in Linux – {12 Examples}
53	<code>partx</code> command	How to List Disk Partitions in Linux – {8 Examples}
54	<code>uptime</code> command	How to Check the Running Time of Linux System
55	<code>tr</code> command	How to Translate or Delete Characters in Linux – {10 Examples}
56	<code>ping</code> command	How to Check Network Connectivity Between Hosts in Linux – {12 Examples}
57	<code>zcat</code> command	How to View Contents of Compressed File in Linux – {6 Examples}
58	<code>xargs</code> command	How to Build and Execute Commands from Standard Input – {12 Examples}
59	<code>rm</code> command	How to Delete Files and Directories in Linux – {8 Examples}
60	<code>stat</code> command	How to Check File or File System Status in Linux – {5 Examples}
61	<code>who</code> command	How to Check Who is Logged-On in Linux – {10 Examples}
62	<code>locate</code> command	How to Find Files by Name in Linux – {10 Examples}
63	<code>host</code> command	How to Find IP Address of Domain Name in Linu – {13 Examples}
64	<code>find</code> command	How to Find Files and Directories in Linux – {35 Examples}
65	<code>fuser</code> command	How to Find PIDs of Processes Using Files or Sockets in Linux – {4 Examples}
66	<code>at</code> command	How to Schedule a Command on Particular Time in Linux

67	<code>fdisk command</code>	How to Create and Manage Disk Partitions in Linux – {10 Examples}
68	<code>parted command</code>	How to Create, Resize, and Rescue Disk Partitions in Linux – {8 Examples}
69	<code>wc command</code>	How to Count Number of Lines, Words, Characters in Linux – {6 Examples}
70	<code>dpkg command</code>	How to Manage .deb Packages in Debian-based Systems – {15 Examples}
71	<code>nmap command</code>	A Network and Security Auditing Tool for Linux – {29 Examples}
72	<code>dmesg command</code>	How to Troubleshoot and Collect Information of Linux Systems – {7 Examples}
73	<code>chattr command</code>	How to Make Important Files IMMUTABLE in Linux – {5 Examples}
74	<code>usermod command</code>	How to Modify User Accounts in Linux – {15 Examples}
75	<code>free command</code>	How to Check Memory Usage in Linux – {10 Examples}
76	<code>cron command</code>	How to Check Memory Usage in Linux – {11 Examples}
77	<code>mysql command</code>	How to Backup and Restore MySQL Databases in Linux – {20 Examples}
78	<code>sdiff command</code>	How to Check Difference Between Two Files in Linux – {11 Examples}
79	<code>history command</code>	How to View Previously Executed Linux Command – {10 Examples}
80	<code>netstat command</code>	How to Check Network Listening Ports in Linux – {20 Examples}
81	<code>sftp command</code>	How to Securely Transfer Files Between Linux Systems – {10 Examples}

82	<code>tcpdump</code> command	How to Analyzer Network Packets in Linux – {12 Examples}
83	<code>scp</code> command	How to Copy Files and Directories Between Remote Linux – {10 Examples}
84	<code>rsync</code> command	How to Sync Files and Directories Between Remote Linux – {10 Examples}
85	<code>fsck</code> command	How to Repair File System Errors in Linux
86	<code>bc</code> command	How to Do Basic Calculations in Linux – {10 Examples}
87	<code>chage</code> command	How to Manage User Password Expiration and Aging in Linux – {5 Examples}
88	<code>ffmpeg</code> command	How to Convert Video, Audio, and Image in Linux – {15 Examples}
89	<code>mknod</code> command	How to Create Device Files in Linux – {5 Examples}

Linux Advance Commands

1	7 Quirky 'ls' Command Tricks Every Linux User Should Know
2	6 Deprecated Linux Commands and Alternative Tools You Should Use
3	13 Most Commonly Used Linux Commands You Should Know
4	10 Most Dangerous Commands You Should Never Execute on Linux
5	30 Useful Linux Commands for System Administrators
6	13 Linux Network Configuration and Troubleshooting Commands
7	20 Commands for Newbies Who Switched from Windows to Linux
8	22 Linux Networking Commands for Sysadmin
9	6 Interesting Funny Commands of Linux (Fun in Terminal)
10	20 Funny Commands of Linux or Linux is Fun in Terminal

11	Deprecated Linux Networking Commands and Their Replacements
12	12 Useful Commands For Filtering Text for Effective File Operations in Linux
13	10 Interesting Linux Command Line Tricks and Tips Worth Knowing
14	11 Advanced Linux 'Grep' Commands on Character Classes and Bracket Expressions
15	8 Useful Commands to Monitor Swap Space Usage in Linux
16	5 Useful Commands to Manage File Types and System Time in Linux
17	10 Useful Linux Command Line Tricks for Newbies
18	10 Amazing and Mysterious Uses of (!) Symbol or Operator in Linux Commands
19	51 Useful Lesser Known Commands for Linux Users
20	10 Lesser Known Useful Linux Commands
21	10 Useful Chaining Operators in Linux with Practical Examples
22	10 Lesser Known Effective Linux Commands
23	60 Commands of Linux: A Guide from Newbies to System Administrator
24	20 Advanced Commands for Linux Experts
25	20 Advanced Commands for Middle-Level Linux Users

Linux Alternative Commands

1	Exa – A Modern Replacement for “ls Command” Written in Rust
2	bd – Quickly Go Back to a Parent Directory Instead of Typing ‘cd’ Command
3	Bat – A Cat Clone with Syntax Highlighting and Git Integration
4	ccat – Show ‘cat Command’ Output with Syntax Highlighting or Colorizing
5	Autojump – An Advanced ‘cd’ Command to Quickly Navigate Linux Filesystem

Learning essential Linux commands will help you to perform various basic and system administrative tasks easily and effectively from the Linux command line. In most cases, each command consists of three parts – a command name, a flag, and a parameter.

In this section, we've added links to 100+ articles on essential Linux commands that will help you get started with the command line. As we add more articles to TecMint, we will continue to add links to those articles on this page.

I have transformed the article on "100+ Essential Commands" into a PDF eBook named "Linux Command Line Mastery: A Comprehensive Guide to 100+ Essential Commands", which is now available for purchase.

This 911-page eBook is your ultimate resource for achieving success in the Linux universe. Embark on your journey now and discover the limitless potential of your computer.

Product Name	Price	Buy
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If you didn't find links to any useful Linux commands or have any questions or suggestions, then do share us via the comments section below. We would like to cover that.

1 Comment

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George Van Tuyl

March 12, 2023 at 12:54 am

The `dd` command is what got me hooked on Linux when I was transitioning from AIX and OS/2 Warp v4 to Linux. That is how I burned my first iso image to a CD-ROM now I use a USB flash memory stick.

```
# dd if=slackware64-15.0-install-dvd.iso of=/dev/sda
```

Where `/dev/sda` is the USB port the USB memory stick was inserted into as seen by the last lines of the “`sudo dmesg`” command.

```
gvtlinux@Archimedes:~$ sudo dmesg
```

```
[ 4688.603949] usb 3-2: new high-speed USB device number 5 using
xhci_hcd
[ 4688.754424] usb 3-2: New USB device found, idVendor=0781,
idProduct=5571, bcdDevice= 1.00
[ 4688.754431] usb 3-2: New USB device strings: Mfr=1, Product=2,
SerialNumber=3
[ 4688.754433] usb 3-2: Product: Cruzer Fit
[ 4688.754434] usb 3-2: Manufacturer: SanDisk'
[ 4688.754435] usb 3-2: SerialNumber: 00000324043021141505
[ 4688.755824] usb-storage 3-2:1.0: USB Mass Storage device
detected
[ 4688.757741] scsi host2: usb-storage 3-2:1.0
[ 4689.785100] scsi 2:0:0:0: Direct-Access      SanDisk' Cruzer Fit
1.00 PQ: 0 ANSI: 6
[ 4689.785551] sd 2:0:0:0: Attached scsi generic sg0 type 0
[ 4689.786276] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] 15630336 512-byte logical blocks:
(8.00 GB/7.45 GiB)
[ 4689.788519] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Write Protect is off
[ 4689.788523] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Mode Sense: 43 00 00 00
[ 4689.788886] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Write cache: disabled, read
cache: enabled, doesn't support DPO or FUA
[ 4689.797168]  sda: sda1 sda2
[ 4689.797278] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Attached SCSI removable disk
```

[Reply](#).

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[Exploring Linux Shell \(Terminal\) Remotely Using PHP Shell](#)

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