Level Up Linux: 20 Must-Know Commands for Newbies

Ravi Saive | Last Updated: January 29, 2024 | Read Time: 13 mins | Linux Commands | 78 Comments

So, are you planning to switch from **Windows** to **Linux** or have you recently made the switch to **Linux**? Oops! What am I asking? Why else would you be here?

[You might also like: How I Switched from Windows to Linux Mint]

In my earlier experience as a newcomer, Linux commands and terminals were quite intimidating. I had concerns about the commands and wondered to what extent I needed to remember and memorize them to become proficient and fully functional with Linux.

Undoubtedly, online documentation, Linux books, man pages, and the user community provided significant assistance.

However, I strongly believe that there should be an article featuring basic Linux commands in easy-to-learn and understood language.

These motivations inspired me to master Linux and make it more user-friendly. This article is a step towards that goal."

1. ls Command

The command '**ls**' stands for '**List Directory Contents**', which is used to display the contents of the folder, whether they are files or subfolders, from which the command is executed.

```
ls
```

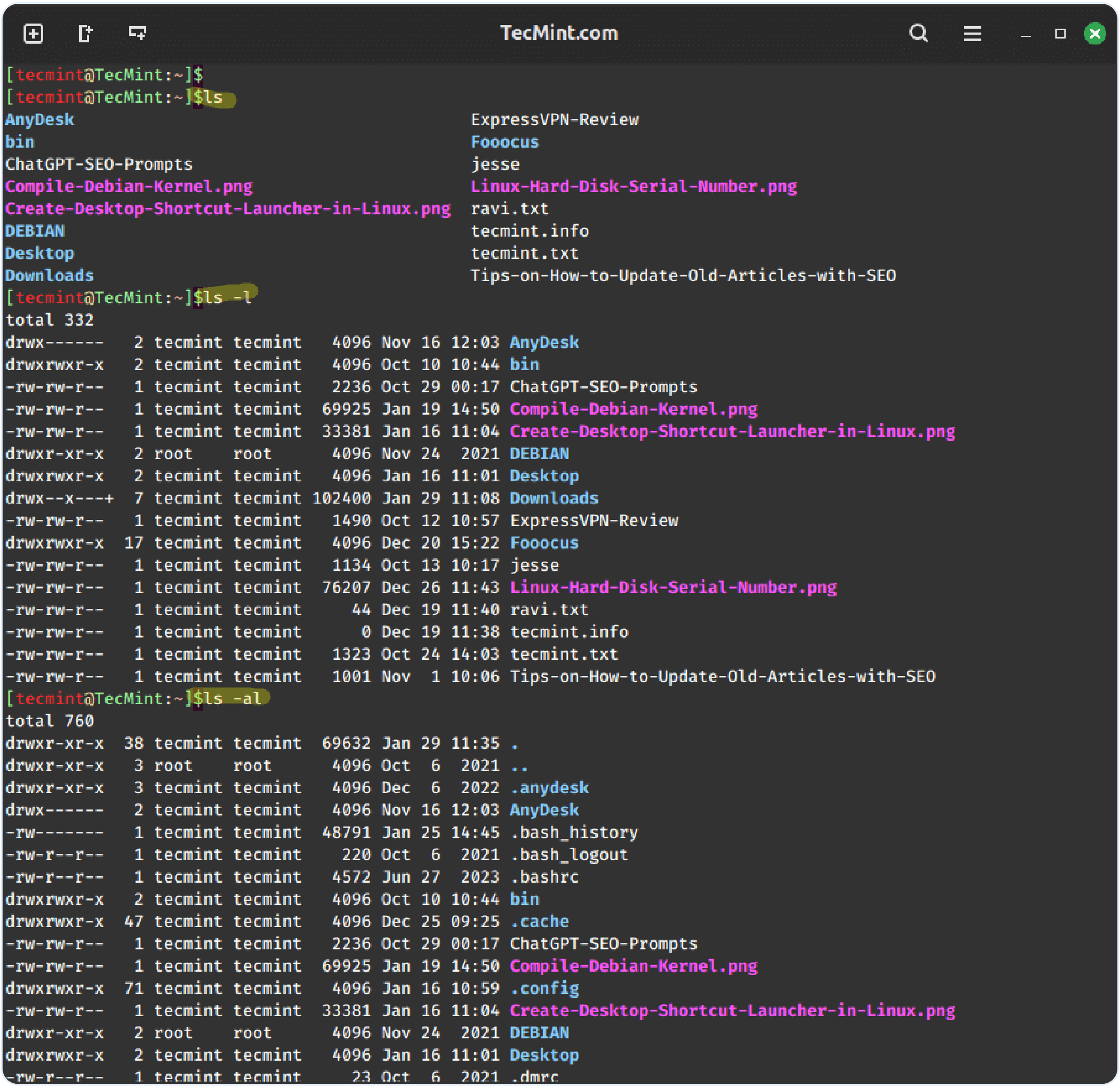
The ‘**ls -l**‘ command lists the contents of the folder in a detailed, long listing format.

```
ls -l
```

The ‘**ls -a**‘ command lists the contents of a folder, including hidden files that start with `'.'`.

```
ls -a
```

In Linux, a file name starting with `'.'` is considered hidden. In Linux, every file, folder, device, or command is treated as a file.



```
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$ls
AnyDesk                                        ExpressVPN-Review
bin                                            Fooocus
ChatGPT-SEO-Prompts                            jesse
Compile-Debian-Kernel.png                      Linux-Hard-Disk-Serial-Number.png
Create-Desktop-Shortcut-Launcher-in-Linux.png  ravi.txt
DEBIAN                                         tecmint.info
Desktop                                        tecmint.txt
Downloads                                      Tips-on-How-to-Update-Old-Articles-with-SEO
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$ls -l
total 332
drwx------   2 tecmint tecmint   4096 Nov 16 12:03 AnyDesk
drwxrwxr-x   2 tecmint tecmint   4096 Oct 10 10:44 bin
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint   2236 Oct 29 00:17 ChatGPT-SEO-Prompts
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint  69925 Jan 19 14:50 Compile-Debian-Kernel.png
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint  33381 Jan 16 11:04 Create-Desktop-Shortcut-Launcher-in-Linux.png
drwxr-xr-x   2 root    root      4096 Nov 24  2021 DEBIAN
drwxrwxr-x   2 tecmint tecmint   4096 Jan 16 11:01 Desktop
drwx--x---+  7 tecmint tecmint 102400 Jan 29 11:08 Downloads
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint   1490 Oct 12 10:57 ExpressVPN-Review
drwxrwxr-x  17 tecmint tecmint   4096 Dec 20 15:22 Fooocus
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint   1134 Oct 13 10:17 jesse
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint  76207 Dec 26 11:43 Linux-Hard-Disk-Serial-Number.png
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint     44 Dec 19 11:40 ravi.txt
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint      0 Dec 19 11:38 tecmint.info
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint   1323 Oct 24 14:03 tecmint.txt
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint   1001 Nov  1 10:06 Tips-on-How-to-Update-Old-Articles-with-SEO
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$ls -al
total 760
drwxr-xr-x  38 tecmint tecmint  69632 Jan 29 11:35 .
drwxr-xr-x   3 root    root      4096 Oct  6  2021 ..
drwxr-xr-x   3 tecmint tecmint   4096 Dec  6  2022 .anydesk
drwx------   2 tecmint tecmint   4096 Nov 16 12:03 AnyDesk
-rw-------   1 tecmint tecmint  48791 Jan 25 14:45 .bash_history
-rw-r--r--   1 tecmint tecmint    220 Oct  6  2021 .bash_logout
-rw-r--r--   1 tecmint tecmint   4572 Jun 27  2023 .bashrc
drwxrwxr-x   2 tecmint tecmint   4096 Oct 10 10:44 bin
drwxrwxr-x  47 tecmint tecmint   4096 Dec 25 09:25 .cache
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint   2236 Oct 29 00:17 ChatGPT-SEO-Prompts
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint  69925 Jan 19 14:50 Compile-Debian-Kernel.png
drwxrwxr-x  71 tecmint tecmint   4096 Jan 16 10:59 .config
-rw-rw-r--   1 tecmint tecmint  33381 Jan 16 11:04 Create-Desktop-Shortcut-Launcher-in-Linux.png
drwxr-xr-x   2 root    root      4096 Nov 24  2021 DEBIAN
drwxrwxr-x   2 tecmint tecmint   4096 Jan 16 11:01 Desktop
-rw-r--r--   1 tecmint tecmint     23 Oct  6  2021 .dmrc
```

Listing Files in Linux

The result of the ls -l command is:

- File Type – The first character represents the file type (`'-'` for a regular file, `'d'` for a directory, `'l'` for a symbolic link, etc.).
- Permissions – The next nine characters represent the file's permissions for the owner, group, and others. These characters can include `'r'` for read, `'w'` for write, and `'x'` for execute permissions.
- Number of Links – Indicates the number of hard links pointing to the file or directory.
- Owner and Group – Specifies the user (owner) and group associated with the file or directory.

- **File Size** – Shows the size of the file in bytes.
- **Modification Time** – Displays the date and time when the file or directory was last modified.
- **File or Directory Name** – The actual name of the file or directory.

For more “**ls**” command examples read our series of articles:

You might also like:

- *15 Basic ls Command Examples in Linux*
- *7 Quirky ‘ls’ Command Tricks Every Linux User Should Know*
- *How to Sort Output of ‘ls’ Command By Last Modified Date and Time*
- *How to List All Files Ordered by Size in Linux*

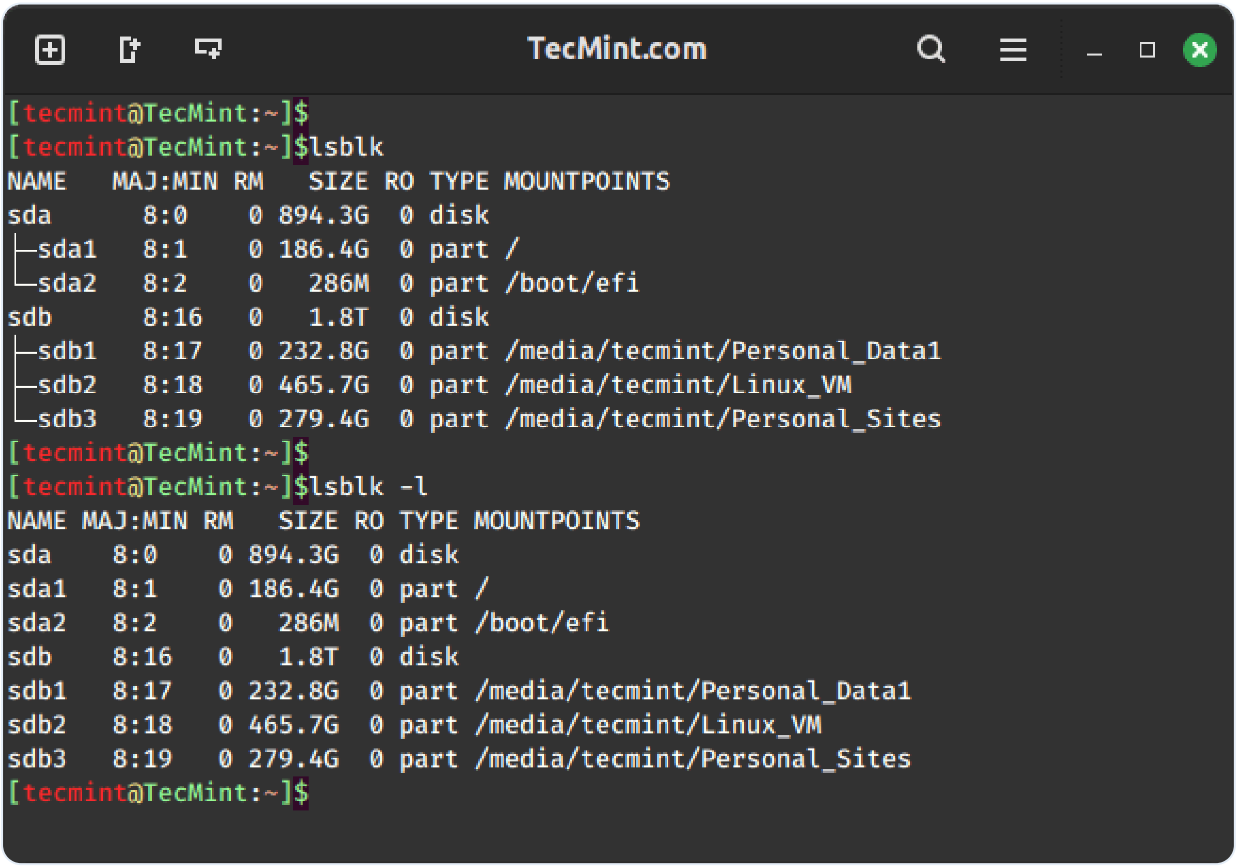
2. lsblk Command

The ‘lsblk‘ command, short for ‘**List Block Devices**,’ displays block devices by their assigned names (excluding RAM) in a tree-like format on the standard output.

```
lsblk
```

The ‘**lsblk -l**‘ command lists block devices in a ‘**list**‘ structure rather than a tree-like fashion.

```
lsblk -l
```



```
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$lsblk
NAME   MAJ:MIN RM   SIZE RO TYPE MOUNTPOINTS
sda      8:0    0 894.3G  0 disk
├─sda1   8:1    0 186.4G  0 part /
└─sda2   8:2    0   286M  0 part /boot/efi
sdb      8:16   0   1.8T  0 disk
├─sdb1   8:17   0 232.8G  0 part /media/tecmint/Personal_Data1
├─sdb2   8:18   0 465.7G  0 part /media/tecmint/Linux_VM
└─sdb3   8:19   0 279.4G  0 part /media/tecmint/Personal_Sites
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$lsblk -l
NAME MAJ:MIN RM   SIZE RO TYPE MOUNTPOINTS
sda    8:0    0 894.3G  0 disk
sda1   8:1    0 186.4G  0 part /
sda2   8:2    0   286M  0 part /boot/efi
sdb    8:16   0   1.8T  0 disk
sdb1   8:17   0 232.8G  0 part /media/tecmint/Personal_Data1
sdb2   8:18   0 465.7G  0 part /media/tecmint/Linux_VM
sdb3   8:19   0 279.4G  0 part /media/tecmint/Personal_Sites
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
```

List Block Devices

lsblk is a very useful and easy way to identify the name of the new USB device you just plugged in, especially when you have to work with disks or blocks in the terminal.

[You might also like: 10 Commands to Find Linux Hardware Information]

3. md5sum Command

The '**md5sum**' stands for '**Compute** and **Check MD5 Message-Digest**'. MD5 checksum (commonly referred to as a '**hash**') is used to match or verify the integrity of files that may have changed due to a faulty file transfer, disk error, or non-malicious interference.

```
md5sum teamviewer_linux.deb

47790ed345a7b7970fc1f2ac50c97002  teamviewer_linux.deb
```

The user can compare the generated md5sum with the one provided officially. **MD5sum** is considered less secure than sha1sum, which we will discuss later.

4. dd Command

The dd command stands for '**Convert and Copy a file**' and can be utilized to convert and copy a file. Most often, it is used to copy an ISO file (or any other file) to a USB device (or another location), making it suitable for creating a bootable USB stick.

```
dd if=debian.iso of=/dev/sdb1 bs=512M; sync
```

> **Note**: In the above example the usb device is supposed to be **sdb1** (You should verify it using the command lsblk, otherwise you will overwrite your disk and OS), use the name of the disk very cautiously!

The **dd** command takes some time ranging from a few seconds to several minutes in execution, depending on the size and type of file and read and write speed of the Usb stick.

[You might also like: How to Clone a Partition Using dd Command]

5. uname Command

The uname command stands for (**Unix Name**), and prints detailed information about the machine name, operating system, and kernel version.

```
uname -a

Linux TecMint 6.2.0-39-generic #40~22.04.1-Ubuntu SMP PREEMPT_DYNAMIC
Thu Nov 16 10:53:04 UTC 2 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux
```

The result of the `uname -a` command is:

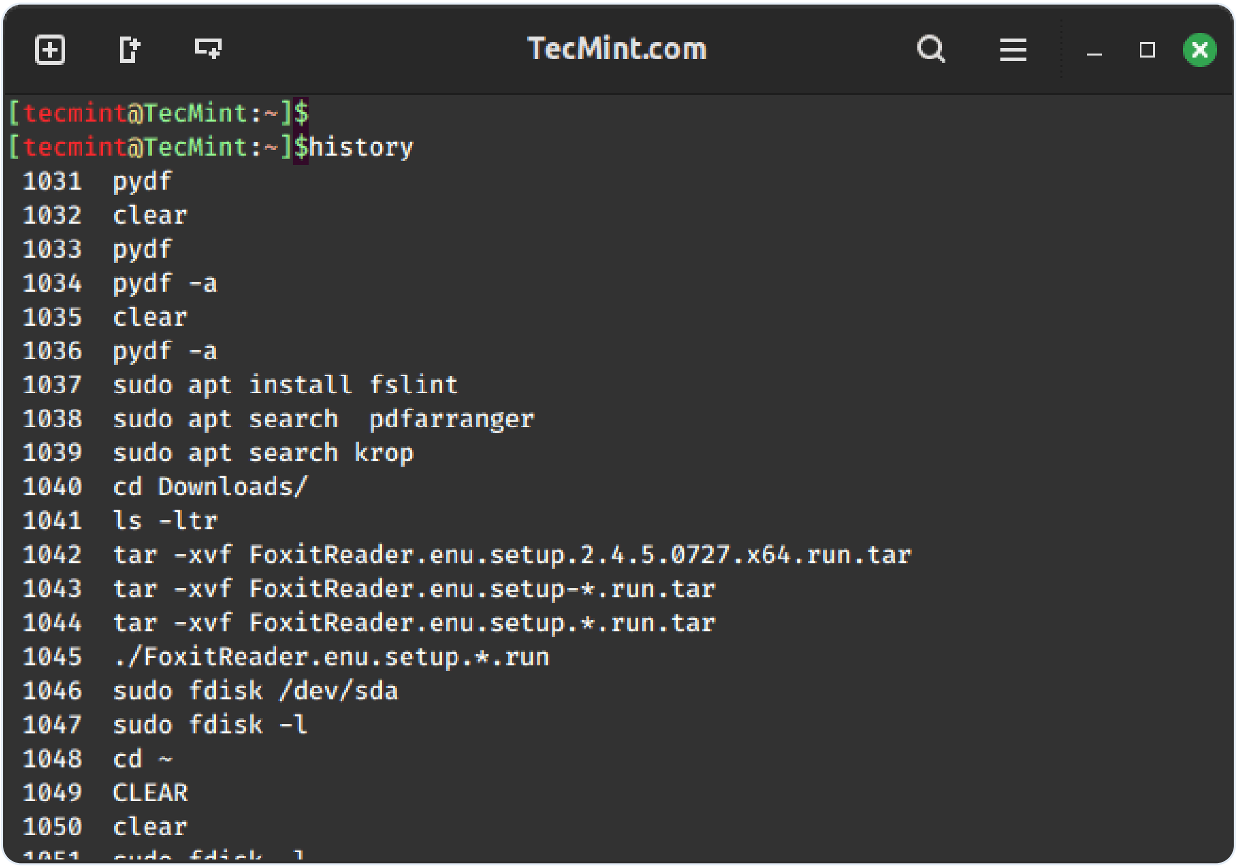
- "**Linux**": The machine's kernel name.
- "**tecmint**": The machine's node name.
- "**6.2.0-39-generic**": The kernel release.
- "**22.04.1-Ubuntu SMP**": The operating system release version.

- “x86_64“: The architecture of the processor.
- “GNU/Linux“: The operating system name.

6. history Command

The history command stands for **History (Event) Record**, it prints the history of a long list of executed commands in the terminal.

```
history
```



```
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$history
 1031  pydf
 1032  clear
 1033  pydf
 1034  pydf -a
 1035  clear
 1036  pydf -a
 1037  sudo apt install fslint
 1038  sudo apt search  pdfarranger
 1039  sudo apt search krop
 1040  cd Downloads/
 1041  ls -ltr
 1042  tar -xvf FoxitReader.enu.setup.2.4.5.0727.x64.run.tar
 1043  tar -xvf FoxitReader.enu.setup-*.run.tar
 1044  tar -xvf FoxitReader.enu.setup.*.run.tar
 1045  ./FoxitReader.enu.setup.*.run
 1046  sudo fdisk /dev/sda
 1047  sudo fdisk -l
 1048  cd ~
 1049  CLEAR
 1050  clear
```

List Previously Executed Commands

Note: Pressing `'Ctrl + R'` allows you to search for previously executed commands, enabling your command to be completed using the auto-completion feature.

```
(reverse-i-search)`if': ifconfig
```

For more examples of **history** commands, please refer to our series of articles:

You might also like:

- *How to Run a Command Without Saving It in History*
- *How to Clear BASH Command Line History in Linux*
- *How to Set Date and Time for Command in History*

7. sudo Command

The “**sudo**” (**superuser do**) command allows a permitted user to execute a command as the superuser or another user, as specified by the security policy in the sudoers list.

```
sudo apt update
```

Note: **sudo** allows users to borrow superuser privileges, while a similar command ‘**su**‘ allows users to log in as superusers. **Sudo** is safer than **su**.

It is not advised to use **sudo** or **su** for day-to-day normal use, as it can result in serious errors if accidentally you do something wrong, that’s why a very popular saying in the Linux community is:

```
“To err is human, but to really foul up everything, you need a root passwor
```

For more examples of **sudo** commands, please refer to our series of articles:

You might also like:

- *10 Useful Sudoers Configurations for Setting ‘sudo’ in Linux*
- *How to Run ‘sudo’ Without Password in Linux*
- *How to Show Asterisks While Typing Sudo Password in Linux*

8. mkdir Command

The (**make directory**) creates a new directory with a name path. However is the directory already exists, it will return an error message “**cannot create a folder, folder already exists**”.

The mkdir command (make directory) is used to create a new directory with a specified path. However, if the directory already exists, it will return an error message stating, ‘**cannot create a folder, folder already exists**‘.

```
mkdir tecmint
```

Directories can only be created within folders for which the user has write permissions.

9. touch Command

The touch command stands for ‘update the access and modification times of each FILE to the current time.’ The ‘**touch**‘ command creates the file only if it doesn’t exist. If the file already exists, it will update the timestamp but not the contents of the file.

```
touch tecmintfile
```

The `**touch**` command can be used to create a file in a directory for which the user has written permission, only if the file doesn’t already exist there.

10. chmod Command

The “**chmod**” command stands for “**change file mode bits**,” which alters the file mode (**permissions**) of each specified file, folder, script, etc., according to the specified mode.

There exist **3** types of permission on a file (folder or anything but to keep things simple we will be using file).

```
Read (r)=4
Write(w)=2
Execute(x)=1
```

So if you want to give only read permission on a file it will be assigned a value of '**4**', for write permission only, a value of '**2**' and for execute permission only, a value of '**1**' is to be given. For read and write permission 4+2 = '**6**' is to be given, and so on.

Now, permission needs to be set for **3** kinds of users and user groups. The first is the owner, then the user group, and finally the world.

```
rwxr-x--x   abc.sh
```

Here the root's permission is **rwx** (**read**, **write**, and **execute**). usergroup to which it belongs is **r-x** (**read** and **execute** only, no write permission) and for the world is **–x** (only **execute**).

To change its permission and provide **read**, **write**, and **execute** permission to the owner, group, and world.

```
chmod 777 abc.sh
```

only **read** and **write** permission to all three.

```
chmod 666 abc.sh
```

The **read**, **write**, and **execute** to the **owner** and only execute to **group** and **world**.

```
chmod 711 abc.sh
```

chmod is one of the most crucial commands that proves beneficial for both system administrators and users. In a multi-user environment or on a server, this command is indispensable, as incorrectly setting permissions can render a file inaccessible or grant unauthorized access to individuals.

11. chown Command

The chown command stands for “**change file owner and group**“, which is used to change the owner and/or group of a file or directory.

Below is an example of how the **chown** command is typically used.

```
chown newowner:newgroup filename
```

For instance, if you want to change the owner of a file named “**example.txt**” to a user named “**tecmint**” and a group named “**users**“, the command would be:

```
chown tecmint:users example.txt
```

12. apt Command

On Debian-based distributions such as Ubuntu and Linux Mint, the apt command stands for (**Advanced Package Tool**), which is used to install, upgrade, and manage software packages on a system from the command line.

```
sudo apt search wget
sudo apt install wget
sudo apt update
```

The **apt** command is considered more advanced and intelligent as compared to yum or dnf command.

> *[You might also like: Understanding APT and APT-Cache Commands]*

13. tar Command

The tar command is a **Tape Archive** that is useful in the creation of an archive, in several file format and their extraction.

```
tar -zxvf abc.tar.gz (Remember 'z' for .tar.gz)
```

```
tar -jxvf abc.tar.bz2 (Remember 'j' for .tar.bz2)
```

```
tar -cvf archieve.tar.gz(.bz2) /path/to/folder/abc
```

Note: A '**tar.gz**' means gzipped. '**tar.bz2**' is compressed with bzip which uses a better but slower compression method.

14. cal Command

The "**cal**" (**Calendar**), is used to display the calendar of the present month or any other month of any year that is advancing or passed.

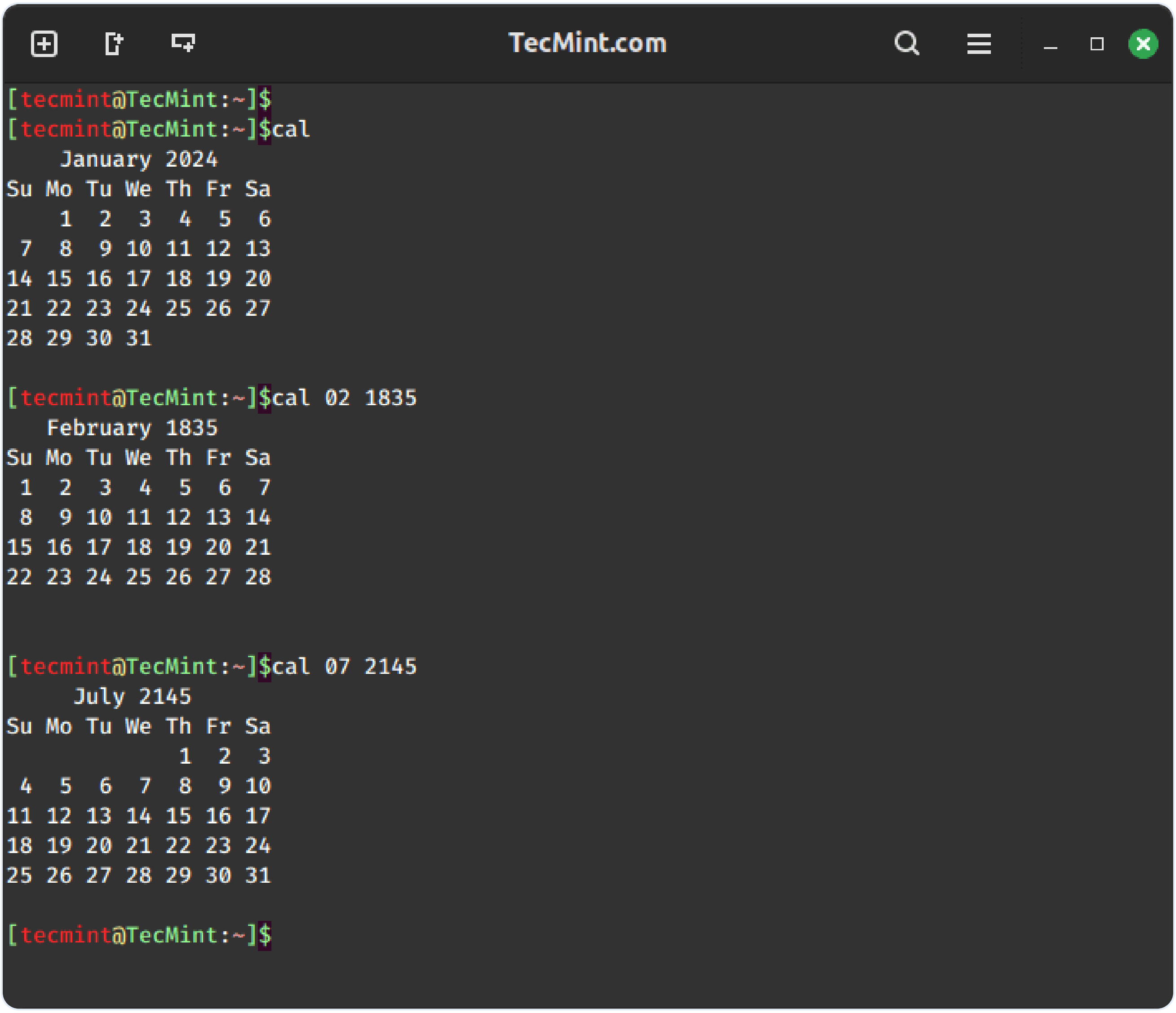
```
cal
```

Show the calendar of the year **1835** for **February**, which already has passed.

```
cal 02 1835
```

Shows the calendar of the year **2145** for **July**, which will be advancing

```
cal 07 2145
```



```
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$cal
    January 2024
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
    1  2  3  4  5  6
 7  8  9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

[tecmint@TecMint:~]$cal 02 1835
   February 1835
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 1  2  3  4  5  6  7
 8  9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28


[tecmint@TecMint:~]$cal 07 2145
     July 2145
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
             1  2  3
 4  5  6  7  8  9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
```

Show Calendar in Linux

Note: You don't need to turn the calendar back by 50 years, nor do you need to perform complex mathematical calculations to determine the day you were born or the day your upcoming birthday will fall on.

15. date Command

The date command is used to display the current date and time. It can also be used to set the system date and time.

To display the current date and time.

```
date
```

To display the current date in the format "**YYYY-MM-DD**".

```
date +"%Y-%m-%d"
```

To set system date and time.

```
sudo date MMDDhhmm[[CC]YY][.ss]
```

The above command allows you to set the system date and time. Replace MM, DD, hh, mm, CC, YY, and ss with the desired values for month, day, hour, minute, century, year, and second, respectively.

Note: The **date** command is highly useful in scripting, especially for time and date-based operations. Moreover, changing the date and time using the terminal can make you feel like a true **GEEK**! (Of course, you need to have **root** permissions to perform this operation, as it involves a system-wide change).

16. cat Command

The cat command stands for (**Concatenation**), which means (join) two or more plain files and/or print contents of a file on standard output.

To display the contents of a file.

```
cat filename
```

To concatenate multiple files means the following command concatenates the contents of **file1** and **file2** and displays the result in the terminal.

```
cat file1 file2
```

The content of **a.txt**, **b.txt**, **c.txt**, and **d.txt** will be combined and appended to the end of the **abcd.txt** file.

```
cat a.txt b.txt c.txt d.txt >> abcd.txt
```

cat abcd.txt

Note: The “`>>`” and “`>`” are called append symbols. They are used to append the output to a file and not to standard output.

The “`>`” symbol will delete a file that already existed and create a new file hence for security reasons it is advised to use “`>>`” that will write the output without overwriting or deleting the file.

Before proceeding further, I must let you know about wildcards (you would be aware of wildcard entries, in most of Television shows) Wildcards are a shell feature that makes the command line much more powerful than any **GUI** file manager.

You see, if you want to select a big group of files in a graphical file manager, you usually have to select them with your mouse. This may seem simple, but in some cases, it can be very frustrating.

For example, suppose you have a directory with a huge amount of all kinds of files and subdirectories, and you decide to move all the HTML files, that have the word “**Linux**” somewhere in the middle of their names, from that big directory into another directory.

What’s a simple way to do this? If the directory contains a huge amount of differently named HTML files, your task is everything but simple!

In the Linux command line that task is just as simple to perform as moving only one HTML file, and it’s so easy because of the shell wildcards. These are special characters that allow you to select file names that match certain patterns of characters.

This helps you to select even a big group of files by typing just a few characters, and in most cases, it’s easier than selecting the files with a mouse.

Here’s a list of the most commonly used wildcards :

```
Wildcard                        Matches
   *                    zero or more characters
   ?                    exactly one character
[abcde]                 exactly one character listed
 [a-e]                  exactly one character in the given range
[!abcde]                any character that is not listed
 [!a-e]                 any character that is not in the given range
{debian,linux}          exactly one entire word in the options given
```

The `!` is called not a symbol, and the reverse of the string attached with `'!'` is true.

17. cp Command

The cp command stands for (**copy**), it copies a file from one location to another location.

```
cp /home/user/Downloads abc.tar.gz /home/user/Desktop
```

Note: The **cp** is one of the most commonly used commands in shell scripting and it can be used with wildcard characters (describe in the above block), for customized and desired file copying.

18. mv Command

The mv command moves a file from one location to another location.

```
mv /home/user/Downloads abc.tar.gz /home/user/Desktop
```

Note: The **mv** command can be used with wildcard characters. **mv** should be used with caution, as moving of system/unauthorized files may lead to security as well as a breakdown of the system.

19. pwd Command

The pwd command (**print working directory**), prints the current working directory with the full pathname from the terminal.

```
pwd

/home/user/Desktop
```

Note: The **pwd** command won't be frequently used in scripting but it is an absolute lifesaver for a newbie who gets lost in the terminal in their early connection with Linux. (**Linux** is most commonly referred to as **nux** or **nix**).

20. cd Command

Finally, the frequently used cd command stands for (**change directory**), which changes the working directory to execute, copy, move write, read, etc. from the terminal itself.

```
cd /home/user/Desktop
pwd

/home/user/Desktop
```

Note: The **cd** command comes to the rescue when switching between directories from the terminal. The `"cd ~"` will change the working directory to the user's home directory, which is very useful if a user finds themselves lost in the terminal. The `"cd .."` will change the working directory to the parent directory of the current working directory.

Conclusion

These commands will undoubtedly enhance your comfort with Linux. However, this is not the conclusion. Soon, I will introduce additional commands that will prove valuable for 'Middle-Level Users'. You will observe a promotion in your user-level status, progressing from a newbie to a middle-level user.

In the next article, I will be coming up with commands like 'Kill', 'ps', and 'grep'.

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I am an experienced GNU/Linux expert and a full-stack software developer with over a decade in the field of Linux and Open Source technologies

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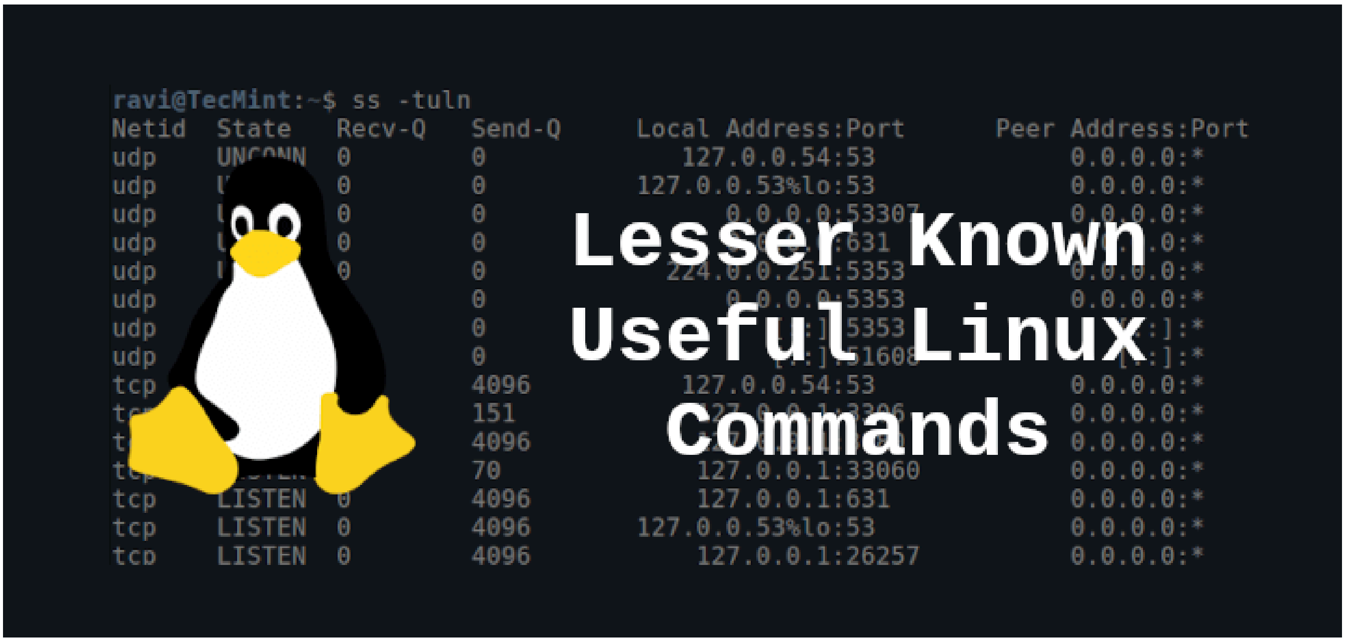
```
tecmint@tecmint ~/testing $ find . -type f \( -name "*.txt" -o -
name "*.sh" -o -name "*.c" \)
./emails.txt
./script-1.sh
./header.c
./examples.txt
./script.sh
./expenses.txt
```

Find Multiple Filenames (File Extensions) Using 'find' Command in Linux

How to Search Files by Name or Extension Using find Command

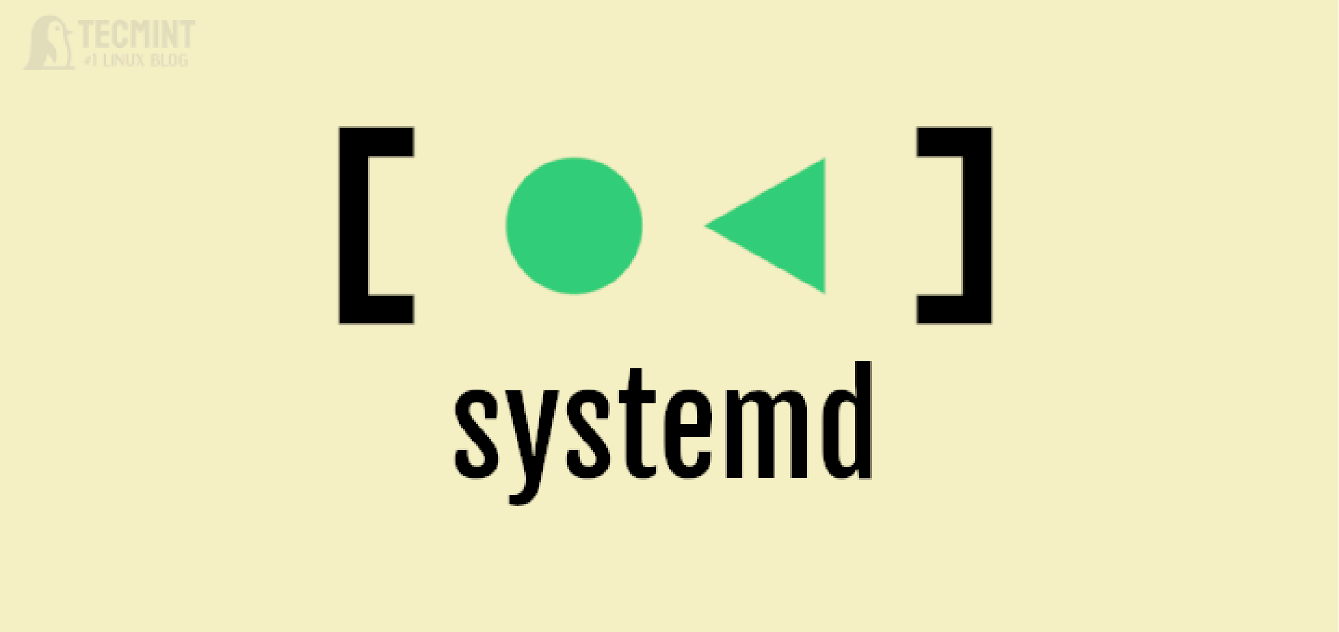
10 Lesser Known Linux Commands – Part 2



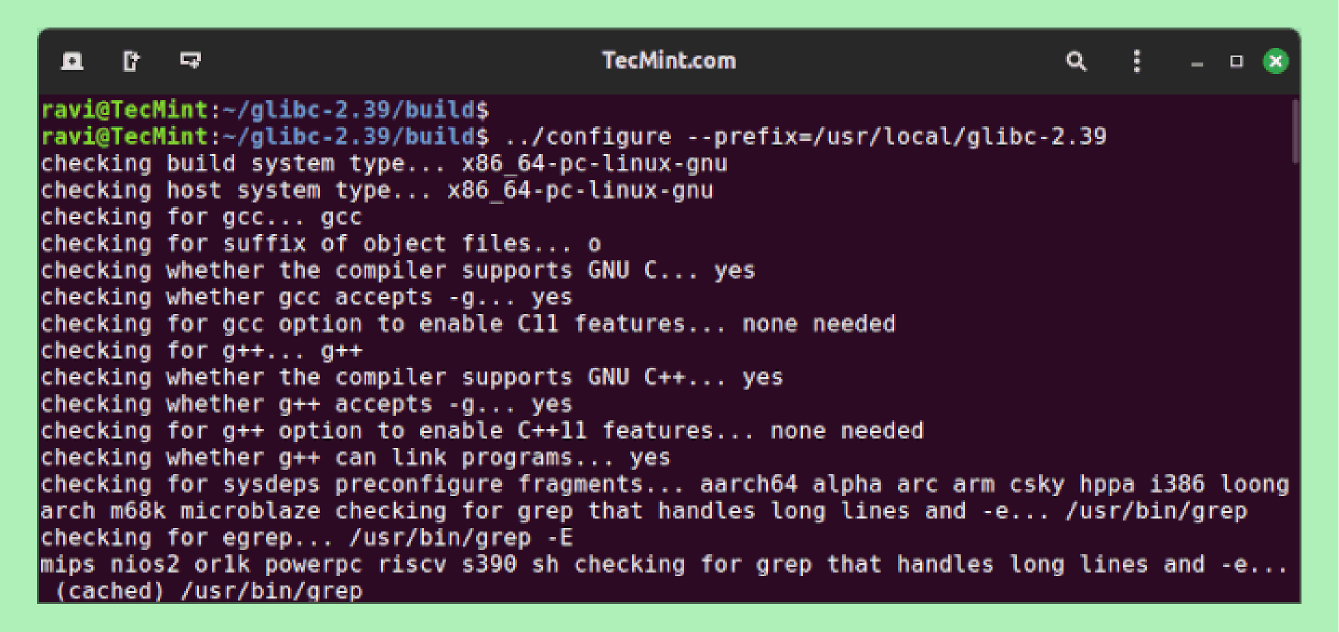
```
ravi@TecMint:~$ ss -tuln
Netid  State    Recv-Q   Send-Q     Local Address:Port        Peer Address:Port
udp    UNCONN   0        0             127.0.0.54:53                0.0.0.0:*
udp    U        0        0          127.0.0.53%lo:53                0.0.0.0:*
udp    U        0        0                0.0.0.0:53307             0.0.0.0:*
udp    U        0        0                     :631                     0:*
udp    U        0        0            224.0.0.251:5353              0.0.0.0:*
udp                      0                0.0.0.0:5353              0.0.0.0:*
udp                      0                     ]:5353                    ]:*
udp                      0                  [::]:51608                [::]:*
tcp                      4096          127.0.0.54:53                0.0.0.0:*
t                        151                    1:3306              0.0.0.0:*
t                        4096                                       0.0.0.0:*
t                        70             127.0.0.1:33060             0.0.0.0:*
tcp    LISTEN   0        4096           127.0.0.1:631               0.0.0.0:*
tcp    LISTEN   0        4096       127.0.0.53%lo:53                0.0.0.0:*
tcp    LISTEN   0        4096           127.0.0.1:26257             0.0.0.0:*
```

11 Lesser Known Useful Linux Commands

26 Security Hardening Tips for Modern Linux Servers



How to Remove Systemd Services on Linux



```
ravi@TecMint:~/glibc-2.39/build$
ravi@TecMint:~/glibc-2.39/build$ ../configure --prefix=/usr/local/glibc-2.39
checking build system type... x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
checking host system type... x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
checking for gcc... gcc
checking for suffix of object files... o
checking whether the compiler supports GNU C... yes
checking whether gcc accepts -g... yes
checking for gcc option to enable C11 features... none needed
checking for g++... g++
checking whether the compiler supports GNU C++... yes
checking whether g++ accepts -g... yes
checking for g++ option to enable C++11 features... none needed
checking whether g++ can link programs... yes
checking for sysdeps preconfigure fragments... aarch64 alpha arc arm csky hppa i386 loong
arch m68k microblaze checking for grep that handles long lines and -e... /usr/bin/grep
checking for egrep... /usr/bin/grep -E
mips nios2 or1k powerpc riscv s390 sh checking for grep that handles long lines and -e...
 (cached) /usr/bin/grep
```

How to Install and Run Multiple glibc Libraries in Linux

78 Comments

Leave a Reply

Robyn Willison

June 17, 2020 at 10:25 am

dd is Disk Dump. I use it to back up a hard drive to a `.iso` file before I do any work on it ie recover files, upgrade os, etc.

Nicely paced article

Reply

madhav

October 22, 2018 at 9:17 pm

As i know; is a meta character which is used to separate two commands then what is the use of command after ; here in this dd command and what bs=512M used for?

```
root@tecmint:~# dd if=/home/user/Downloads/debian.iso of=/dev/sdb1
bs=512M; sync
```

Reply

jebin

May 10, 2018 at 11:21 am

why it comes permission denied when we access some folder?

Reply

praveen kumar

May 15, 2017 at 10:45 am

nice one

Reply

Jamshock

March 27, 2017 at 7:02 pm

Include the command vi

Reply

Ararsa Hiko

November 19, 2016 at 12:33 pm

I really liked it, please add more such topics, thanks.

Reply

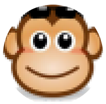
Rod

August 12, 2016 at 5:29 pm

You forgot to tell the readers the “root@tecmint:” refers to your computer and will be different for each owner.... Otherwise this is a useful article.

Although it is directed to power users, most Linux users will find Ubuntu or Mint, along with the many other GUI, will be just fine! Operating from the terminal is complex and fun at the same time just remember be careful with commands.

Reply



erm3nda

March 28, 2016 at 5:23 pm

I think this guide is so nice, well fitted. Just missing a command, which is really useful for new people coming, looking at logs :) to solve problems.
I’m talking about head and tail and grep. Those commands are necessary to inspect logs in a better/faster/easier way and can be “added” aside the “cat” section you made.
Also, an Alias section would be mega useful to don’t force users to use ctrl+r to remember their commands.
I’m one of those people hating viruses along Windows, so I’ve switched to Debian and I know what I say.

Nice work.

Reply

VIKASH KUMAR GAUTAM

February 24, 2016 at 3:18 pm

Very good tutorial and very useful

Reply

Aniruddha

February 2, 2016 at 4:50 pm

This is very useful and very well explained.

Thanks !

Reply

Mick

November 29, 2015 at 11:17 pm

Very good introduction from Windows to Linux. It should be placed at first position of Section 2, before detailed explanations or examples given for each of the commands. Thank you from a windows defector!

Reply

jay nath jha

August 23, 2015 at 3:27 pm

I want to learn LINUX please teach me.

Reply

Author

Ravi Saive

August 24, 2015 at 12:01 pm

@Jay,
Here is the exclusive course module from TecMint, compiled for newbies only to learn and improve their Linux skills..

https://www.tecmint.com/free-online-linux-learning-guide-for-beginners/

Reply

Swapnil Nimje

July 16, 2015 at 10:53 am

If i done Linux (RHCE).....is jobs in market that i can get easily....

Reply

Swapnil Nimje

July 16, 2015 at 10:50 am

Dear Sir,

What is the future in Linux ?... I want to know....is there any growth?....is it good field in Linux (RHCE)?...please help me...

Reply

ravendhran

June 19, 2015 at 2:04 pm

ia verry happy for the section

Reply

Avishek Kumar

June 29, 2015 at 3:32 pm

Welcome ravendhran,
Keep connected for more such posts.

Reply

Vatsal

April 1, 2015 at 6:18 am

Hi avishek, this website is very useful for me. Can you tell me what other stuff as a newbie i need to learn to give an interview for position of sys admin intern?

Reply

Avishek Kumar

April 1, 2015 at 12:02 pm

Welcome Vatsal. Have good command over Scripting (Shell/Python/perl) and general service which includes but not limited to Apache, MySQL,…. Also have sound knowledge of networking and network Protocols and what ever you can learn just keep doing…

Reply

Romanator

March 31, 2015 at 2:45 am

Amazing website. I am a newbie, however I have a quick question in regards to "cat" command and the example above:

```
oot@tecmint:~# cat a.txt b.txt c.txt d.txt abcd.txt
```

Are you trying to concatenate 5 files (a, b, c, d, abcd.txt) and print the content, or are you trying to concatenate a, b, c, d to abcd.txt? If the latter, should not this command be:

```
oot@tecmint:~# cat a.txt b.txt c.txt d.txt >>abcd.txt
```

Again – I have learnt a lot, and I am trying to follow every example. It took me a while to understand what was going on with the first command. Thank you!

Reply

Avishek Kumar

June 29, 2015 at 3:47 pm

Dear Romanator,

You are right. It is a mistake on my part.

The command should be

```
# cat a.txt b.txt c.txt d.txt >> abcd.txt
```

or

```
# cat a.txt b.txt c.txt d.txt > abcd.txt
```

Asking admin to amend it, please.

Reply

Dinesh Yadav

March 25, 2015 at 3:12 am

nice post with good explanation…

thank you

Reply

Avishek Kumar

March 25, 2015 at 1:57 pm

Welcome @ Dinesh

Reply

wahidullah

November 13, 2014 at 10:49 am

Thanks a loot

Reply

Avishek Kumar

March 25, 2015 at 1:57 pm

Welcome @ wahidullah

Reply

Pritam Saha

October 14, 2014 at 9:30 am

These are the very Basic commands in LINUX…Interested to know some more commands which will be useful too..
Thanking you…

Reply

venkatesh

October 27, 2014 at 1:24 pm

how to add a user and how to delete a user plz put some example here

Reply

Author

Ravi Saive

October 27, 2014 at 5:09 pm

Here is the complete guide on how to add users and delete users in Linux.

https://www.tecmint.com/add-users-in-linux/

Reply

Amol Bhosale

September 18, 2014 at 9:44 pm

Dear Sir,

I am looking for lab session like
1) creating local repository by copying packages from DVD.
2) Installing & Configuring SAMBA Server step by step.
3) Creating Backup Server.

Thanks & Regards,

Amol Bhosale

Reply

Author

Ravi Saive

September 20, 2014 at 11:55 am

Dear Amol,

The things you looking for, we already covered, juse use our search form to search for articles.

Reply

vinayak

November 5, 2014 at 2:36 pm

I also looking for installation and configuration on different servers like samba,dhcp,mailing servers etc.

Reply

Alex

August 28, 2014 at 2:37 am

PS – This page has now been honoured by being bookmarked on the Tool-bar!!!

:)

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:25 pm

we are honoured @ Alex

Reply

Alex

August 28, 2014 at 2:35 am

Very nice work. As another ancient but new to Linux user: I Thank you!
Linux Lite suits my venerably old machine just fine – she hums along happily without the screaming and screeching with Windows…we are both happier :)

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:25 pm

:)

Reply

Narasinhareddy

August 27, 2014 at 4:12 pm

Nice notes for beginner….thank you sir

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:26 pm

Welcome @ Narasinhareddy

Reply

Late P.E.

June 30, 2014 at 3:31 pm

commands explained easily to understand…thanks

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:26 pm

Welcome Late P.E.

Reply

Suresh

June 5, 2014 at 12:37 pm

The commands are explained nicely with good examples as well. Good job.

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:27 pm

Oh! Thankyou Suresh.

Reply

Crazy Bani

May 9, 2014 at 1:28 am

It helps me out….thnx

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:29 pm

Great to know it @ crazy Bani

Reply

crustyasp

April 19, 2014 at 6:04 am

As a noob, moving over to Linux, on an old PIII, Dell laptop, I appreciate your effort to introduce me to the command line. I also appreciate the links to find more command line usage.
My motivation to move to Linux was the age of my computer, the lack of support for the computer by Microsoft, (why throw away that which is usefull, and be forced to buy something new just to have to repeat it again, because Microsoft

forces you to) and also to disprove the saying that an old dog (68) can't be taught new tricks. The distro that I found that seems best suited to my needs and computer was Slitaz. TThank you Linux world.

Reply

N0d3_z3r0

May 19, 2014 at 8:38 pm

Welcome. We are glad to have you apart of our world!!

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:29 pm

Difficult to understand but thanks for your quote.

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:30 pm

Welcome SIR,
we really feels inspired.

Reply

rps

February 2, 2014 at 8:49 pm

‘lsblk’ does not work on Redhat?

Reply

Amol

March 30, 2014 at 1:50 am

It works on RedHat. Btw… keep it up ABhishek Kumar…. !!

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:31 pm

@ Amol
it works on all Distros.

Reply

minhaj

October 29, 2013 at 1:46 pm

Nice one

Reply

Avishek Kumar

September 2, 2014 at 3:32 pm

thanks

Reply

John Susa

August 9, 2013 at 6:11 am

Apart of having a TERRIBLE English, your post is good. You’re a experienced computer user, you SHOULD have a good command of English please!!!!

Reply

Gabbleduck

February 18, 2014 at 4:19 am

John Susa, you might want to make sure that your command of english is 100% accurate before you start saying things like that.

“Apart of having….” ????

Reply

N0d3_z3r0

May 19, 2014 at 8:36 pm

Lol. Well played sir.

Reply

Lestrad

June 3, 2014 at 8:34 pm

The point is, it’s not English anymore. It’s Earthish.

Reply

JasonBourne

August 9, 2013 at 2:43 am

What the hell is this????

The 1st ravisaive in the above example means that file is owned by user ravisaive.
The 2nd ravisaive in the above example means file belongs to user group ravisaive.

What is a “ravissaive”????

Reply

Author

Ravi Saive

August 9, 2013 at 12:02 pm

It’s a system USER.

Reply

MightyMoo

May 20, 2013 at 3:50 pm

This is a nice guide for someone who does more then check email and browse websites on a machine. The basic email/web guys would like more graphical style stuff though I think. It’d be neat if there was a side by side comparison of the command line and graphical tool (if available).

Reply

mankou

May 20, 2013 at 1:22 pm

Nix?

Nux?

Reply

Avishek

May 20, 2013 at 10:51 am

@ ken
sudo apt-get remove ubuntu is ok.
but if you mean sudo apt-get remove linux or yum remove linux
then dear i have to ask you, what the hell are you doing here ?

Reply

Avishek

May 20, 2013 at 10:48 am

@ Cat and Scott no Linux user will be afraid of terminal. it is the curosity, the adventure, the fun that drives them to the world of Linux, they know that terminal (shell) is the soul of Linux and is much powerful that powershell or any other shell implemented in other OSes. if this is not true, most of us would have still be sticks to walls, gates and windows.

Reply

Gabbleduck

February 18, 2014 at 4:17 am

I agree, I am very new but it was the excitement of being able to control things more, to be able to play around with a command line and have the excitement of the risk of potentially being able to break things while playing, that is what drew me to Linux. You are dead right, someone who is afraid of the command line would not be trying to play with it, and would continue to point-and-click :-)

Reply

Avishek

May 20, 2013 at 10:44 am

@ Rambo Tribble sure df is one of the important command but for sure a newbie in linux don't have to bother much about his disk usages, and when you have to provide only 20 commands, whom will you select and whom to discard is a matter of debate, moreover df will surely be available in the next part of this tutorial.

Reply

Curtis

May 20, 2013 at 10:42 am

I think that part about apt being superior to yum is pretty infamatory. It would be one thing if you actually had some kind of included reference to back it up. Or at the very least you could have included a brief explanation.

Honestly, I think they both have their strong points over one another. You can't say that one is unequivocally better than the other, as they are both very mature.

I am a pacman user though. And just ask Allan, pacman f-ing rules! (At least is is certainly far faster than yum or apt)

Reply

Avishek

May 20, 2013 at 12:53 pm

yum :

yum Comes with Fedora and fedora like OS by default and is Widely supported

by many RPM repositories which is Fairly easy to roll your own repository.
However, No "pinning" or other mechanisms for backing out updates, Somewhat confusing to create a hierarchy of "trust," in terms of which repositories to use for which packages and No graphical update/management tool are the drawbacks of yum.

apt :
apt Somewhat has wider support across distributions (since its a Debian tool), which include Synaptic, a graphical GUI for doing updates and "Pinning" support, and uninstall support.
However, apt is Not a base part of the FC package set. Perhaps a slightly higher learning curve to use effectively.
Harder to use as a verb in jargon filled conversations. "I apted GIMP2 last night" as opposed to "Yum up that new GIMP2 package"
(apt is used by debian and debian like distro viz., ubuntu, kubuntu, fuduntu, kali, ..., etc and yum is used by fedora and fedora like os viz., redhat, centos, etc. The number of distros using apt is several times more than distros using yum as package manager.)
None of the two is perfect, but surely apt has an edge over yum. You better compare yourself.

Reply

ken

May 19, 2013 at 11:28 pm

sudo apt-get remove ubuntu

Reply

dolan

October 7, 2014 at 3:56 pm

that is the evilest thing I can imagine

Reply

Avishek Kumar

October 9, 2014 at 10:30 pm

lol :)

Reply

Cat

May 19, 2013 at 7:44 pm

Sure way to scare linux newbies away is starting to tell them about command line. First they must master normal use in windowed environment. When they have those skills and are interested in deeper dive in linux, then it's time to start learning command line.

Reply

Scott

May 20, 2013 at 1:36 am

I agree. This leaves the impression that to use Linux one must learn the command line. For desktop use the command line is completely unnecessary.

Reply

Lestrad

June 3, 2014 at 8:26 pm

I disagree. When I got my first computer, Windows 3.0 had just come out. But instead of installing it, I sat down and learned to work with DOS, and to this day I have never regretted it. It STILL comes in handy and has saved my yass a few times. After all, the operations you perform in a graphical environment are the same ones you perform from the command line. Knowing how to do them in their original, historical form is not going to hurt anybody and will do people a lot of good. It's a little like learning Latin – once you study it a bit you start to understand English with a lot more depth.

Reply

psyuk

October 3, 2014 at 9:27 pm

I disagree.
This was exactly what I needed in coming to run Linux in an embedded environment with only a shell for access.

Reply

Rambo Tribble

May 19, 2013 at 7:41 pm

I would suggest adding “df” to your list. Keeping track of disk resources is always a good idea.

Reply

Bob

May 18, 2013 at 12:25 am

#20 has some duplicate code from #19. Otherwise, it’s a great tutorial :)

Reply

Avishek

May 18, 2013 at 3:07 pm

#20 has some duplicate code from #19 ???
of which kind and where?

Reply

kiran

November 14, 2014 at 12:00 pm

Hi Sir,

I am into windows side,working as system admin,need to switch over to linux..so plz suggest what all the basic things need to learn in linux..tell me how to prepare myself..waiting for ur reply…

Reply

Author

Ravi Saive

November 14, 2014 at 9:09 pm

@kiran,

We always suggest newbies to start with basic Linux commands, we've a huge collection of basic Linux commands with examples to learn at https://www.tecmint.com/category/linux-commands/.

Reply

Got Something to Say? Join the Discussion...

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