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24 Funniest Commands to Try in the Linux Terminal

Avishek Last Updated: July 19, 2023 Read Time: 14 mins Linux Commands 212 Comments

<u>Linux</u> has a rich <u>collection of commands</u>, and while many of them are powerful and useful for various tasks, there are also some funny and whimsical commands that you can try out for amusement.

1. sl Command (Steam Locomotive)

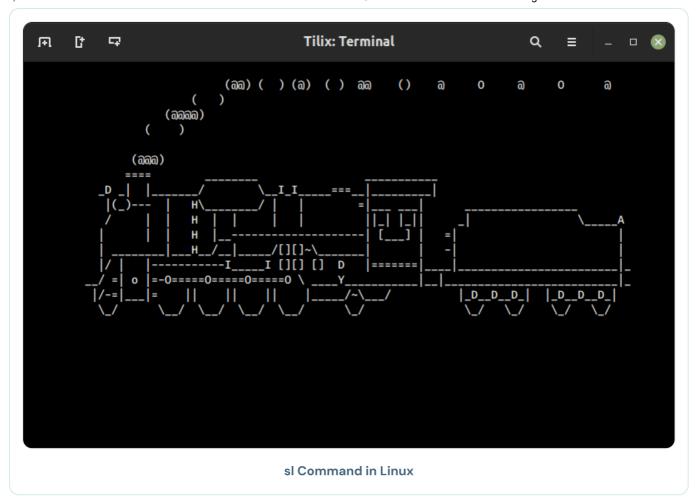
You might be aware of the command <u>Is command</u>, which is used frequently to view the contents of a directory but because of miss-typing sometimes you would result in 'sl'.

The sl command is to playfully simulate a train moving across your terminal when you accidentally type "sl" instead of "ls" (a common mistype).

Install sl Command

After installation, you can try running the sl command by simply typing.

\$ sl



2. telehack Command

The <u>telehack</u> is a website that provides a text-based interface resembling a command-line environment, where you can interact with various commands, explore simulated systems, play text-based games, read articles, and even participate in a simulated storyline.

Go to the telehack website, and type the following command.

\$ starwars

3. fortune Command

The **fortune** command is a fun command that is used to display a random quote, a witty saying, or a fortune message.

Install fortune Command

After installation, you can try running the fortune command by simply typing.

```
$ fortune
```

```
TecMint.com
       C†
            귝
                                                                  Q
 Æ.
                                                                                 [tecmint@TecMint:~]$fortune
You are as I am with You.
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$fortune
A visit to a fresh place will bring strange work.
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$fortune
question = ( to ) ? be : ! be;
                -- Wm. Shakespeare
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$fortune
You're a card which will have to be dealt with.
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
                              Show Quotes in Command Line
```

4. rev Command

The rev command is used to reverse the order of characters in each line of a given input. It reads the input from either standard input or from files and outputs the reversed lines.

To reverse the characters in a file, use the following command.

```
$ rev tecmint.txt
```

```
TecMint.com

Q ≡ - □ ⊗

[tecmint@TecMint:~]$

Reverse Words in Linux
```

5. factor Command

The factor command is used to factorize a given integer into its prime factors. It calculates the prime factors of the specified number and displays them on the standard output.

\$ factor 5

6. Nested Loop in Bash

This is not a command, but a <u>nested loop in Bash</u> that prints a multiplication table from 1 to 12. It uses two variables, i and j, to iterate through the numbers and calculates their product.

```
$ for i in {1..12}; do for j in $(seq 1 $i); do echo -ne $iÃ-$j=$((i*j))\\t
◆
```

Here is an explanation of the command:

```
for i in {1..12}; do  # Outer loop iterating from 1 to 12
  for j in $(seq 1 $i); do  # Inner loop iterating from 1 to the cur
     echo -ne "$i×$j=$((i*j))\t"; # Print the multiplication expressi
     done
     echo; # Move to the next line after each inner
  done
```

When you run this command in the terminal, it will generate the following output.

```
C†
            귝
                                              TecMint.com
                                                                                    Q
 Ħ.
tecmint@TecMint:~]$
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$for i in {1..12}; do for j in $(seq 1 $i); do echo -ne $iÃ-$j=$((i*j))\\t;done; echo;
done
1Ã-1=1
2Ã-1=2 2Ã-2=4
       3\tilde{A} - 2 = 6
               3Ã-3=9
  -1=3
       4Ã-2=8 4Ã-3=12 4Ã-4=16
       5Ã-2=10 5Ã-3=15 5Ã-4=20 5Ã-5=25
  -1=6 6Ã-2=12 6Ã-3=18 6Ã-4=24 6Ã-5=30 6Ã-6=36
   ·1=7 7×2=14 7×3=21 7×4=28 7×5=35 7×6=42 7×7=49
  -1=8 8Ā-2=16 8Ā-3=24 8Ā-4=32 8Ā-5=40 8Ā-6=48 8Ā-7=56 <u>8</u>Ā-8=64
9Ã-1=9 9Ã-2=18 9Ã-3=27 9Ã-4=36 9Ã-5=45 9Ã-6=54 9Ã-7=63 9Ã-8=72 9Ã-9=81
                                                                                                10Ã-7=701
10Ã-1=10
               10Ã-2=20
                                10Ã-3=30
                                                10Ã-4=40
                                                                10Ã-5=50
                                                                               10Ã-6=60
                      10Ã-10=100
0Ã-8=80 10Ã-9=90
              11Ã-2=22
                                               11Ã-4=44
                                                                11Ã-5=55
11Ã-1=11
                               11Ã-3=33
                                                                               11Ã-6=66
                                                                                                11Ã-7=771
                    11Ã-10=110
1Ã-8=88 11Ã-9=99
                                    11Ã-11=121
              12Ã-2=24
                              12Ã-3=36
                                                                               12Ã-6=72
                                                                                                12Ã-7=841
                                                               12Ã-5=60
12Ã-1=12
                                               12Ã-4=48
2Ã-8=96 12Ã-9=108
                       12Ã-10=120
                                       12Ã-11=132
                                                       12Ã-12=144
[tecmint@TecMint:~]$
                                   Prints Multiplication Table in Linux
```

7. cowsay Command

The cowsay command is used to generate an ASCII art representation of a cow or other animals with speech or thought bubbles containing a customizable message.

Install cowsay Command

After installation, you can try running the cowsay command by simply typing.

```
$ cowsay I Love Tecmint.com
$ cowsay I Love Linux
```



To combine the **fortune** with the **cowsay** command to display a random fortune message using a <u>pipe (I) to pass the output</u> of one command to be the input of another command.

In the below example, the output of the 'fortune' command acts as an input of the 'cowsay' command.

```
$ fortune | cowsay
```

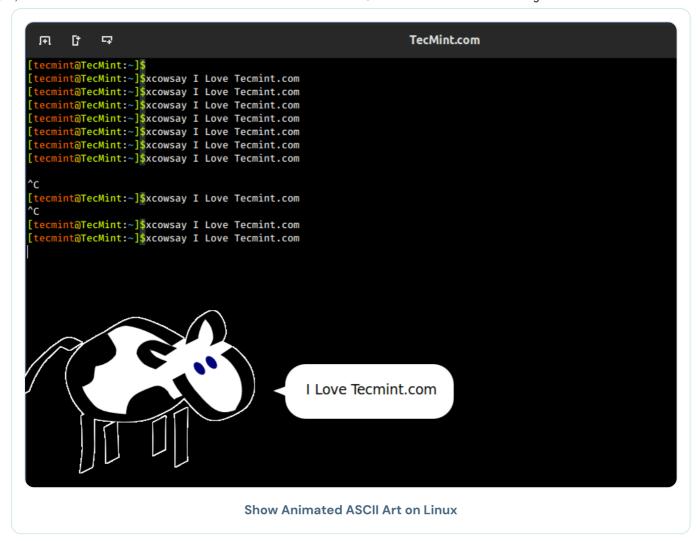


xcowsay is a graphical program that response similar to cowsay but in a graphical manner, that generates an animated speech bubble with a customizable message, usually featuring a cow or other characters, on the desktop.

Install xcowsay Command

Once xcowsay is installed, you can launch it by running:

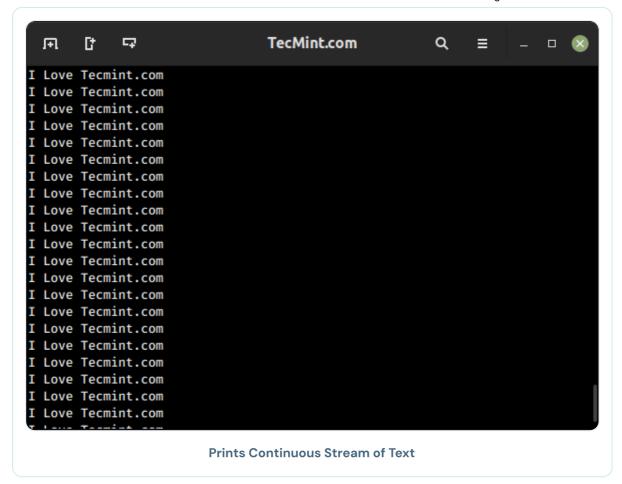
```
$ xcowsay I Love Tecmint.com
```



8. yes Command

The yes command prints a continuous stream of the specified string or text repeatedly until terminated, which is often used in scripts or command-line operations that require automated or repeated input of a specific value.

```
$ yes I Love Tecmint.com
```



9. toilet Command

The toilet command generates visually appealing ASCII art text-based banners or large letters using various fonts in the terminal.

Install toilet Command

Once the **toilet** is installed, you run the command with the text you want to convert into an ASCII banner.

\$ toilet TecMint.com

If you want to print the banner in a large font, you can run:

```
$ toilet -f big TecMint.com
```

10. cmatrix Command

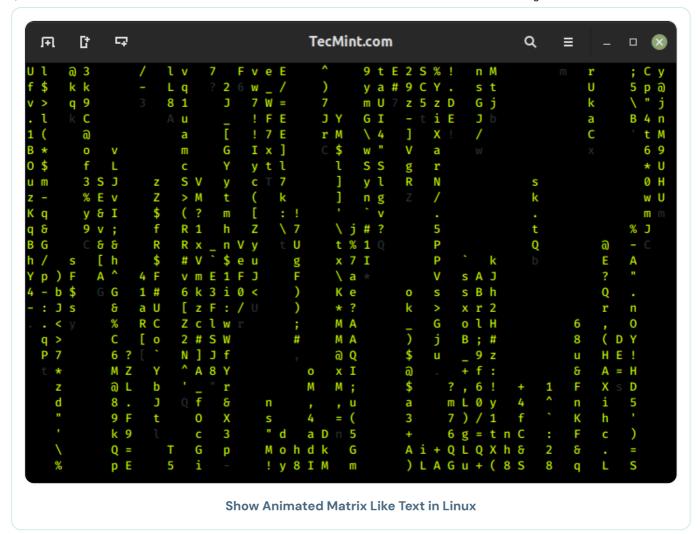
You might have seen the Hollywood movie 'Matrix' and would be fascinated with the power, Neo was provided with, to see anything and everything in the Matrix or you might think of an animation that looks like Matrix's desktop.

Then you should use a cmatrix command that displays an animated matrix-like rain of text characters on your terminal, similar to the "Matrix" movie.

Install cmatrix Command

Once cmatrix is installed, you can run the command that displays a full of cascading green characters resembling the falling code from the "Matrix" movie.

```
$ cmatrix
```



11. oneko Command

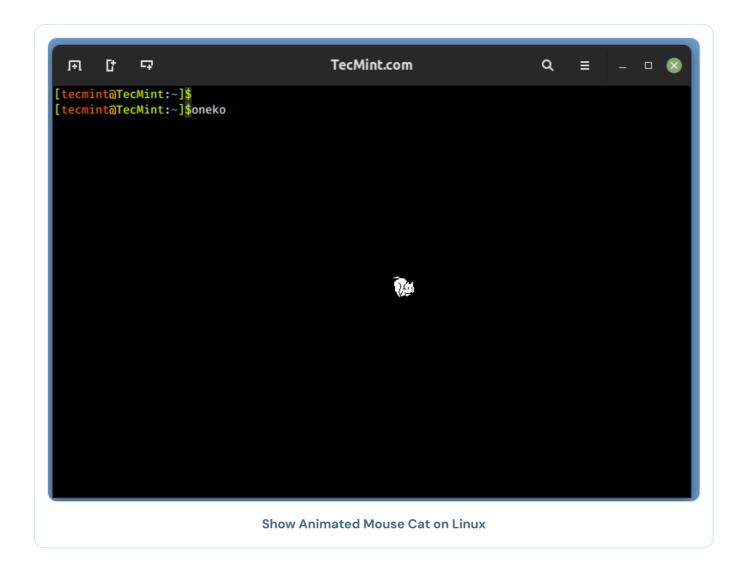
OK, so you believe that the mouse pointer of Linux is the same silly black/white pointer where no animation lies then I fear you could be wrong.

The "oneko" is a package that will attach a "Jerry" with your mouse pointer and moves along with your pointer.

Install oneko Command

Once oneko is installed, you run the command to see a small animated cat on your screen.

\$ oneko



Once you close the terminal from which **oneko** was run, **Jerry** will disappear, nor will start at start-up. You can add the application to start up and continue enjoying.

12. Fork Bomb

A fork bomb is a type of malicious code or command that can cause a denial-of-service (DoS) condition by rapidly and exponentially creating child processes, which exploits the "fork" system call in the operating system.

It can also cause severe disruption, loss of data, or damage to the system, which might make you unresponsive, and you might need to reboot the machine to regain control.

To check the power of the fork command you should try it once, but all at your own risk, close and save all other programs and files before running a fork bomb.

```
$ :(){ :|: & };:
```

Let's break down how this fork bomb works:

- [:(){ ... } This defines a function named ":" (colon) without any arguments.
- :|: This calls the function recursively by piping its output to another instance of the function.
- & This puts the command in the background, allowing it to run concurrently.
- **;:** This executes the function again after the initial invocation, causing it to continue indefinitely.

13. while Command

The following while command is a bash script that provides you with a colored date and time in a stylized ASCII art format using the toilet. It uses a while loop to repeatedly execute the commands and includes a 1-second delay between each iteration.

```
$ while true; do echo "$(date '+%D %T' | toilet -f term -F border --gay)";
```

Here's an explanation of the command:

```
while true; do # Start an infinite loop echo "$(date '+%D %T' | toilet -f term -F border --gay)"; # Print the sleep 1; # Delay for 1 second done
```



The above script when modified with the following command, will give similar output but with a little difference, check it in your terminal.

```
$ while true; do clear; echo "$(date '+%D %T' | toilet -f term -F border --
◆
```

14. espeak Command

The espeak is a text-to-speech (TTS) synthesis command that converts text input into spoken words in various languages and voices.

Install espeak Command

```
$ sudo pacman -S espeak [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install espeak [On OpenSUSE]
```

Once espeak is installed, you run the command with the text you want to be spoken.

```
$ espeak "I Love TecMint.com"
```

15. aafire Command

The aafire is a fun command that displays visually appealing ASCII art animation of a fire effect in the terminal using ASCII characters.

Install aafire Command

Once aafire is installed, you run the command to see a fire animation in your terminal.

```
$ aafire
```

16. bb Command

The **bb** is a simple command-line ASCII art demo that displays an animated ASCII art representation of a bouncing ball on the terminal screen.

Install bb Command

Once **bb** is installed, you run the command to see a visual effect of a ball bouncing around the terminal screen.

\$ bb

17. curl Command

Won't it be an awesome feeling for you if you can update your Twitter status from the command line in front of your friend and they seem impressed?

To post a status to Twitter using the <u>curl command</u>, you need to use the Twitter API's POST endpoint for creating a tweet as shown.

```
$ curl -X POST -u "YourBearerToken:" -d "status=Your%20status%20message" "h

◆
```

18. ASCIIquarium

ASCIIquarium is an entertaining perl script that displays an animated aquarium in ASCII art format directly in your Linux terminal. It creates a simulation of underwater life with fish, plants, and other elements.

On Ubuntu or <u>Debian-based systems</u>, you can install ASCIIquarium with the following commands.

First, you need to install the Term::Animation module as shown.

```
$ sudo apt install libcurses-perl
$ sudo apt install libcurses-perl
$ wget https://cpan.metacpan.org/authors/id/K/KB/KBAUCOM/Term-Animation-2.5
$ tar xzf Term-Animation-2.5.tar.gz
$ cd Term-Animation-2.5/
$ perl Makefile.PL
$ make
$ sudo make install
```

Next, install ASCIIquarium with the following commands.

```
$ cd /tmp
$ wget http://www.robobunny.com/projects/asciiquarium/asciiquarium.tar.gz
$ tar -zxvf asciiquarium.tar.gz
$ cd asciiquarium_1.1/
$ sudo cp asciiquarium /usr/local/bin
$ sudo chmod 0755 /usr/local/bin/asciiquarium
```

Finally, run "asciiquarium" or "/usr/local/bin/asciiquarium" in the terminal without quotes and be a part of the magic that will be taking place in front of your eyes.

\$ asciiquarium



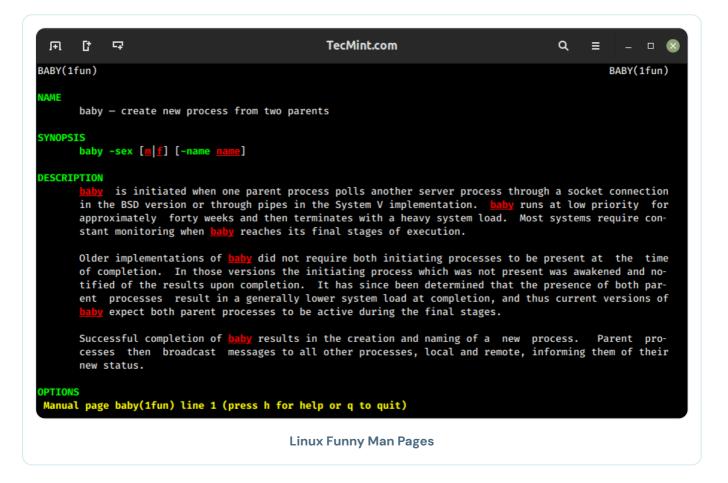
19. Funny Linux Man Pages

Funny man pages, also known as "man pages with attitude," are entertaining versions of the traditional <u>Linux man pages</u>, as they don't offer abt serious or practical information, they are meant to bring a smile to your face.

Install Funny Man Pages

Once funny-manpages is installed, you can have access to the funny-man pages of the command you want to view.

```
$ man baby
$ man celibacy
$ man condom
$ man date
$ man echo
$ man flame
$ man flog
$ man gong
```



20. pv Command

You might have seen the simulating text in movies, which appears as if it is being typed in real-time. Won't it be nice, if you can have such an effect in your terminal?

This can be achieved, by installing the <u>pv command</u> (pipe viewer), which is used to monitor the progress of data through a pipeline.

Install pv Command

Once, the pv command is installed successfully on your system, let's try to run the following one-liner command to see the real-time text effect on the screen.

```
$ echo "Tecmint[dot]com is a community of Linux Nerds and Geeks" | pv -qL 1
```

```
tecmint@tecmint ~ $
tecmint@tecmint ~ $
tecmint@tecmint ~ $ echo "Tecmint[dot]com is a community of Linux Nerds and Geeks" | pv -qL 10 

Show Animated Text in the Terminal
```

The q option means 'quiet', no output information, and option L means the limit of transfer of bytes per second. The number value can be adjusted in either direction (must be an integer) to get the desired simulation of text.

21. rig Command

The rig short for "Random Identity Generator" is a command that is used to generate random fake identities for testing, simulation, or other purposes.

Install rig Command

Once installed, you can use the rig command to generate random identities.

```
$ rig
```

```
tecmint@tecmint ~ $
tecmint@tecmint ~ $
tecmint@tecmint ~ $ rig []

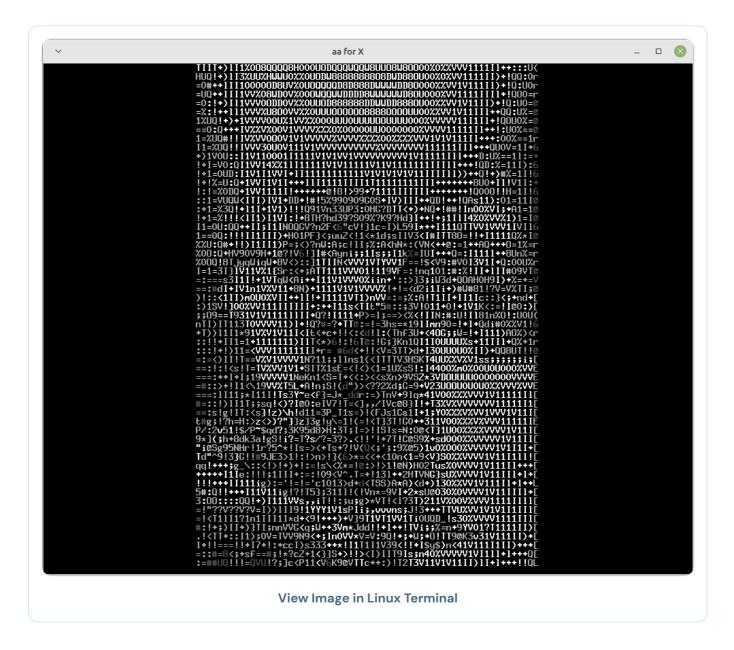
Generate Fake Identities in Linux
```

22. aview Command

The aview command converts images into ASCII art and displays them in the terminal. To use the aview command, you need to have it installed on your system.

I've got an image named 'actress.jpg' (guess the actress) in my current working directory and I want to view it on the terminal in ASCII format.

```
$ aview actress.jpg
```

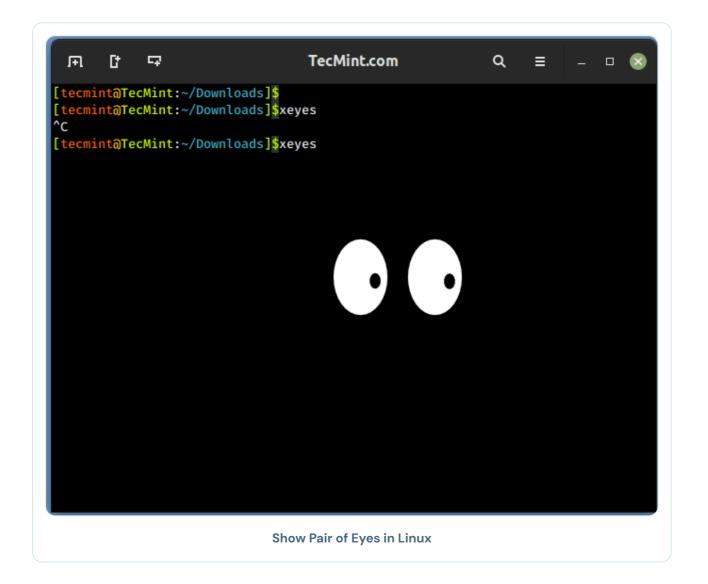


23. xeyes Command

Earlier, we introduced a command 'oneko' which attaches Jerry with a mouse pointer and keeps on chasing it. A similar program 'xeyes' is a graphical program and as soon as you fire the command you will see two monster eyes chasing your movement.

Once installed, run:

```
$ xeyes
```



24. Linux Tweaks

It is time for you to have some one-liner Linux tweaks to have some fun in the terminal.

```
$ world
bash: world: not found
$ touch girls\ boo**
touch: cannot touch `girls boo**': Permission denied
$ nice man woman
No manual entry for woman
$ ^How did the sex change operation go?^
bash: :s^How did the sex change operation go?^ : substitution failed
$ %blow
bash: fg: %blow: no such job
$ make love
make: *** No rule to make target `love'. Stop.
$ [ whereis my brain?
sh: 2: [: missing ]
```

```
$ % man: why did you get a divorce?
man:: Too many arguments.
```

```
$ % !:say, what is saccharine?
Bad substitute.
```

```
$ \(-\)
bash: (-: command not found
```

Linux is naughty – if you know what I mean...:)

```
$ who | grep -i blonde | date; cd ~; unzip; touch; strip; finger; mount; ga
◆
```

There are certain others but these don't work on all the systems and hence not included in this article. Some of them are man dog, filter, banner, etc.

Have fun, you can say me thanks later:) yup, your comment is highly appreciated which encourages us to write more. Tell us which command you liked the most. Stay tuned I will be back soon with another article worth reading.

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Avishek

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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



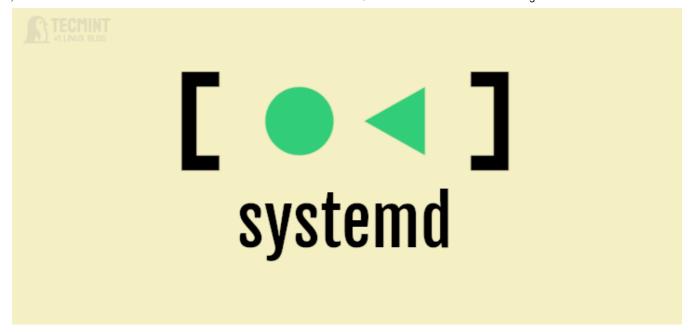
10 Lesser Known Linux Commands - Part 2



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 whether g++ accepts -g... yes
checking for gy+ 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 orlk 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



Leave a Reply

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Tux Bel

April 25, 2024 at 11:19 pm

Hello, that was a very interesting article! Could you please type "echo \$PS1" in the terminal you used for the examples you showed above?

Thanks a lot!

<u>Reply</u>

nthapa

February 29, 2024 at 6:06 pm

Part 1 and Part 2 are same although topic names are diffrent. Thanks.

<u>Reply</u>

Back Do'

September 2, 2022 at 12:26 pm

I have not been able to get my battery monitor to work since they dropped the 4.0 kernel. If anyone can help me, please do.

<u>Reply</u>



Rami

August 5, 2022 at 11:43 am

Interesting post. Add **pedofetch** package to this list. Pedofetch is a double pendulum simulation in terminal simulation.

Reply



Samarthya Lykamanuella

June 19, 2021 at 10:00 am

Love this post! But I have some suggestions below.

I tried to install all six commands on my Arch Linux distro, but most were not available on the official repository.

Toilet, Rig, and Aview are available on user repository. They can be installed using "yay -S toilet rig aview" or git clone.

Pv and cowsay are available on the official repository using command "pacman -S pv cowsay".

To install xeyes, use "pacman -S xorg-xeyes" instead.

Thank you for inspiring Linux geeks!

Reply

Admin



Ravi Saive

June 21, 2021 at 10:31 am

@Samarthya,

Corrected the article as per your suggestion...

<u>Reply</u>

T

June 2, 2021 at 3:38 pm

Some on the list are no longer available to download, list needs updating

<u>Reply</u>

Admin



Ravi Saive

June 10, 2021 at 12:50 pm

@Timothy,

I have updated the article with the installation instructions for each command...

Reply



linuxdudeguy

March 25, 2024 at 5:54 pm

add \$ ^How was school today?^

-bash: :s^How was school today?^: substitution failed as a tweak please

Golden Doge

February 1, 2021 at 12:04 am

To install sh on Arch Linux / Manjaro type:

```
$ sudo pacman -S sh
```

<u>Reply</u>

MarkDubya

June 11, 2021 at 5:35 am

No. sh is part of the bash.

```
> pacman -F sh
core/bash 5.1.0-2 [installed: 5.1.008-3]
    usr/bin/sh
```

<u>Reply</u>

Tejas Bhandigare

January 8, 2021 at 10:50 am

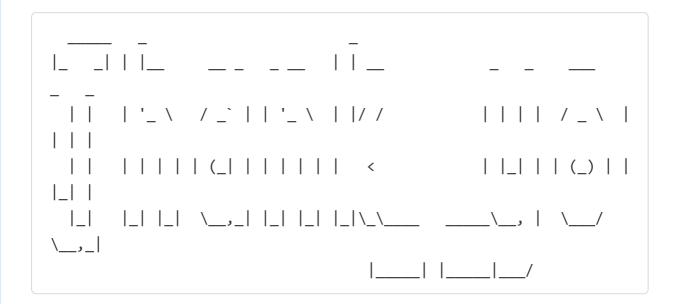
Which command is used to execute the name?



Blacksquad

October 8, 2020 at 10:54 am

Wow, thank you for sharing these cool tips. I really love'em



<u>Reply</u>

Brian S. Wilson

June 28, 2020 at 3:59 am

Great article. I was able to use this on my WLS 1 Linux Ubuntu installation on my Celeron ASUS laptop which is older than the hills but still chugs along. The installation went very well and the Linux environment is a joy to work with (unlike the rest of Windoze 10).

hunke moller

March 28, 2020 at 10:26 pm

in the pv example, change the 'quite' to 'quiet'

'Note: The 'q' option means 'quite'.

keep up the good work!

<u>Reply</u>

Les

November 15, 2019 at 9:05 am

This was a very informative article. Thanks alot.

<u>Reply</u>



AyScorch

March 8, 2019 at 3:37 am

Help, it says its not found. I'm on a Win10 Ubuntu.

Billie

May 14, 2019 at 5:56 pm

For those that can't seem to get any of these working, run this beforehand:

```
$ sudo apt-get update
```

<u>Reply</u>

Kameron Mickeletto

February 27, 2019 at 4:43 pm

I made an sh file to install asciiquarium if anybody wants to use it, here is the code:

```
apt install tar
apt install wget
apt install make

apt install libcurses-perl
cd /tmp
wget http://search.cpan.org/CPAN/authors/id/K/KB/KBAUCOM/Term-
Animation-2.4.tar.gz
tar -zxvf Term-Animation-2.4.tar.gz
cd Term-Animation-2.4/
perl Makefile.PL && make && make test
make install

cd /tmp
wget
```

```
http://www.robobunny.com/projects/asciiquarium/asciiquarium.tar.gz
--no-check-certificate
tar -zxvf asciiquarium.tar.gz
cd asciiquarium_1.1/
cp asciiquarium /usr/local/bin
chmod 0755 /usr/local/bin/asciiquarium
```

<u>Reply</u>

Admin



Ravi Saive

February 28, 2019 at 10:50 am

@Kameron,

Thanks for sharing the script with our readers, hope it will users install asciiquarium without any issues..

Reply

Tux Bel

April 25, 2024 at 11:44 pm

Installed on AlmaLinux 9 and everything worked smoothly! Just had to run:

sudo dnf -y install perl-Test-Base.noarch perl-Curses.x86_64

Reply

Linux is cool

September 22, 2018 at 10:01 pm

On Raspbian, a distro of linux, the ASCIIQUARIUM does not work.

<u>Reply</u>

Oronate

December 29, 2019 at 4:56 am

It does work, maybe you didn't run "sudo" with every command.

<u>Reply</u>

Liz Thompson

September 16, 2018 at 7:54 am

asciiview saving just does not work for me

<u>Reply</u>

2048.run

August 27, 2018 at 5:13 pm

ssh 2048.run telnet 2048.run

lets you play 2048 (the game) in the terminal.

<u>Reply</u>

Just a guy

April 16, 2018 at 6:14 pm

BB is the best one!!

<u>Reply</u>

knowitall

April 12, 2018 at 11:16 am

these are not commands, there are apps

<u>Reply</u>

Spencer D'Amour

January 31, 2018 at 9:23 am

Wow!	This is a	wesome. I jus	st started	l computer	science,	time to	have	some	fun
while	studying	. Thank you s	o much!						

<u>Reply</u>

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