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24 Funniest Commands to Try in the Linux Terminal

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Linux has a rich collection of commands, 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 ls command, which is used frequently to view the contents of a directory but because of miss-typing sometimes you would result in 'sl'.

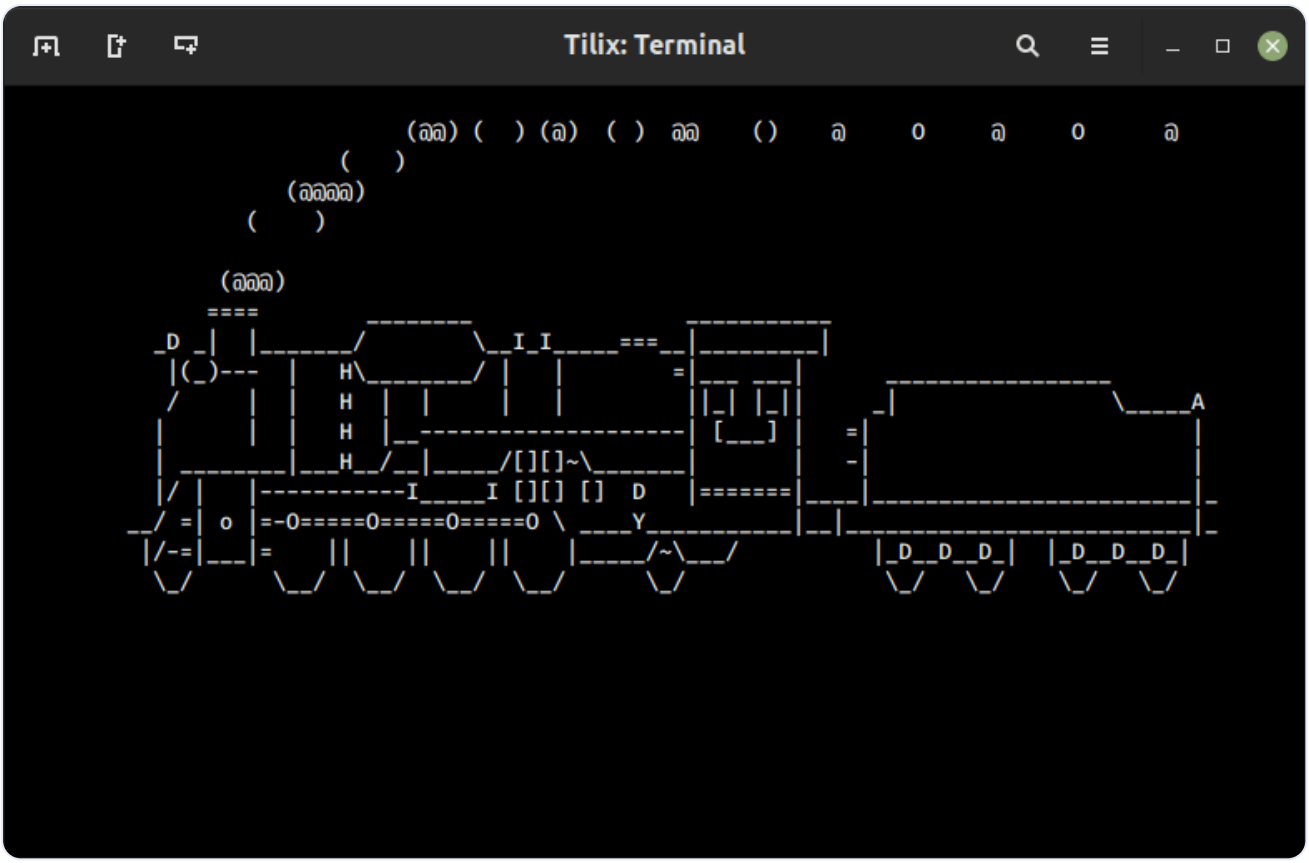
The sl command is to playfully simulate a train moving across your terminal when you accidentally type "sl" instead of "ls" (a common mistype).

Install sl Command

```
$ sudo apt install sl          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install sl          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux]
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/sl   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add sl              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S sl            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install sl       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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

```
$ sl
```



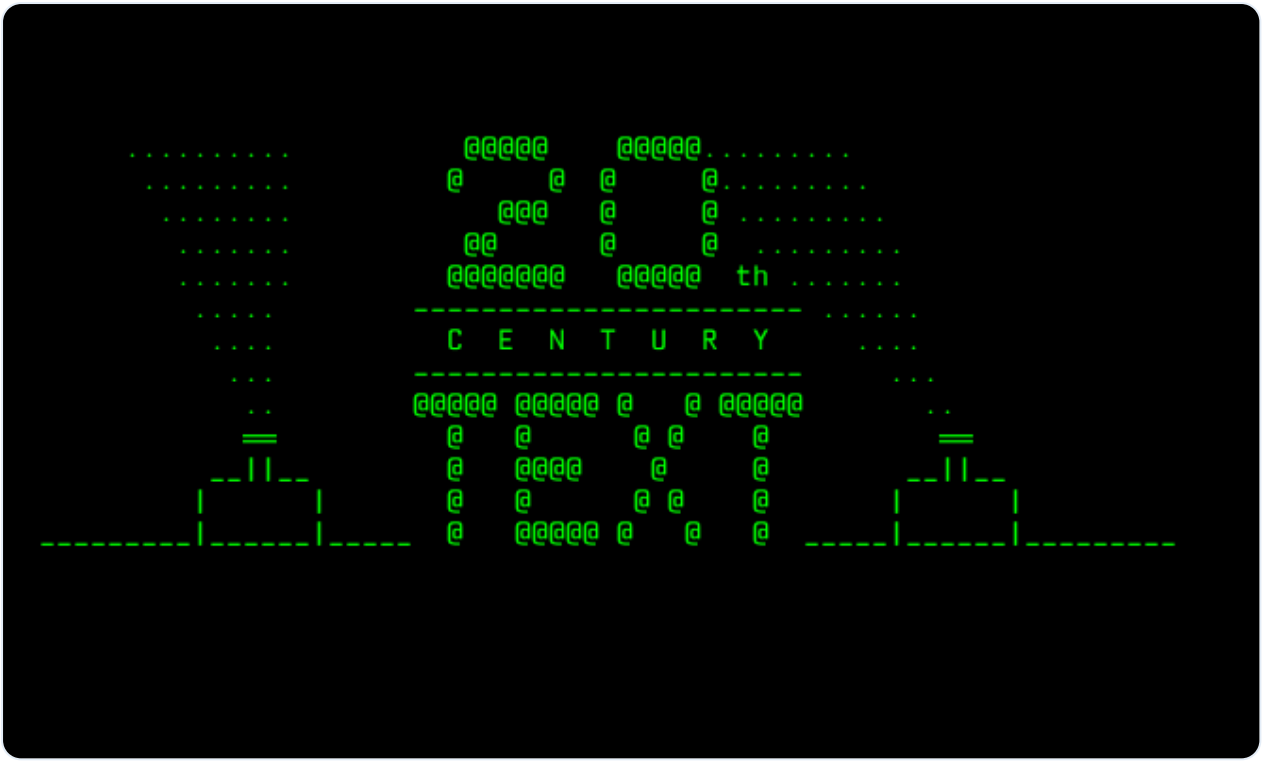
sl Command in Linux

2. telehack Command

The [telehack](#) 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
```



View Starwars in Linux

3. fortune Command

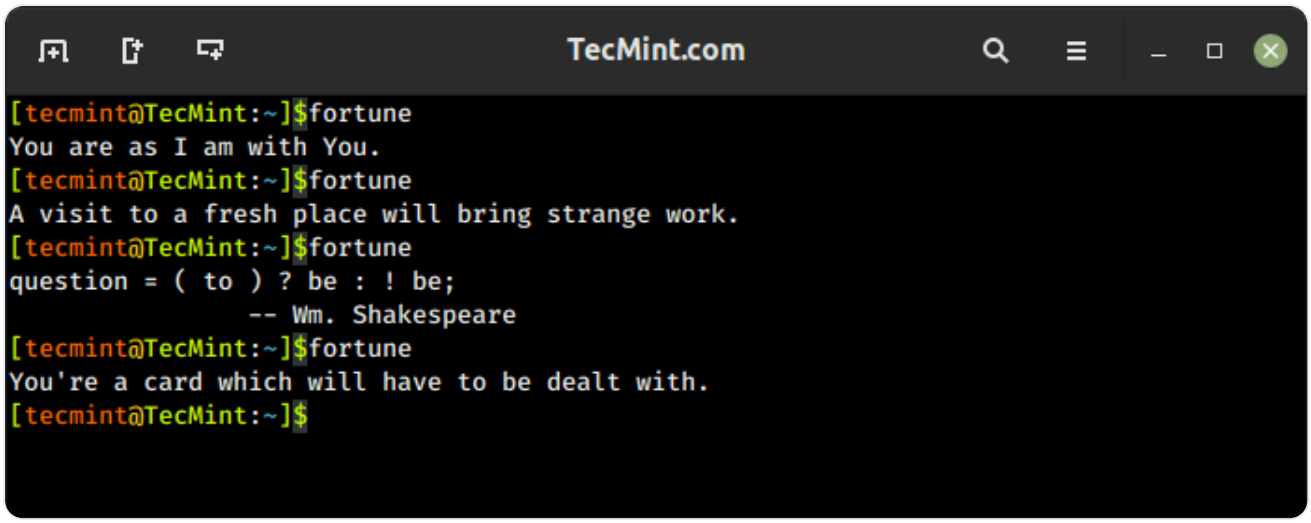
The **fortune** command is a fun command that is used to display a random quote, a witty saying, or a fortune message.

Install fortune Command

```
$ sudo apt install fortune          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install fortune          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLir
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/fortune   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add fortune              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S fortune            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install fortune       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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

```
$ fortune
```



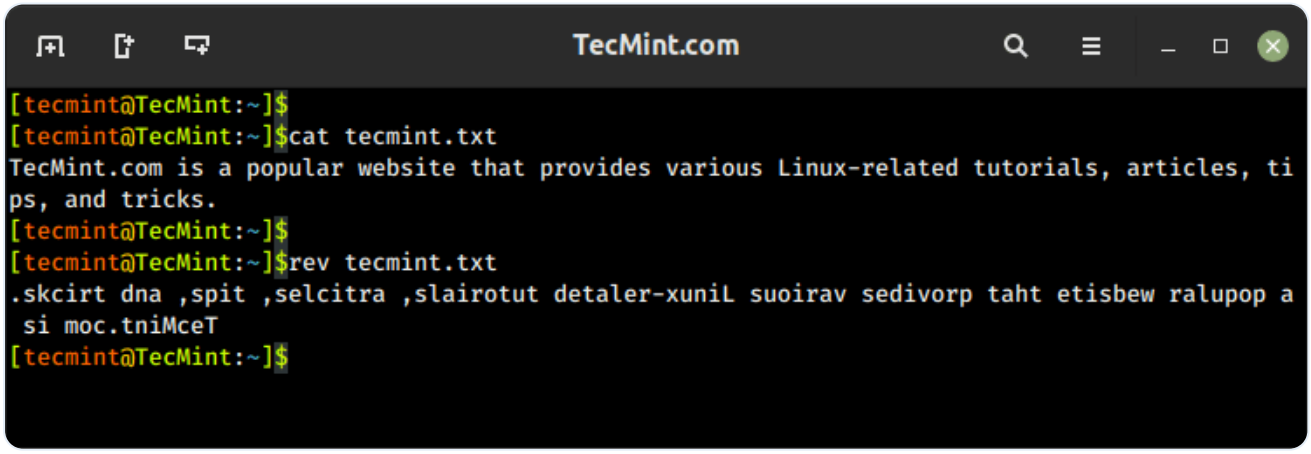
Show Quotes in Command Line

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
```



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
```

Calculates Prime Factors of Number

6. Nested Loop in Bash

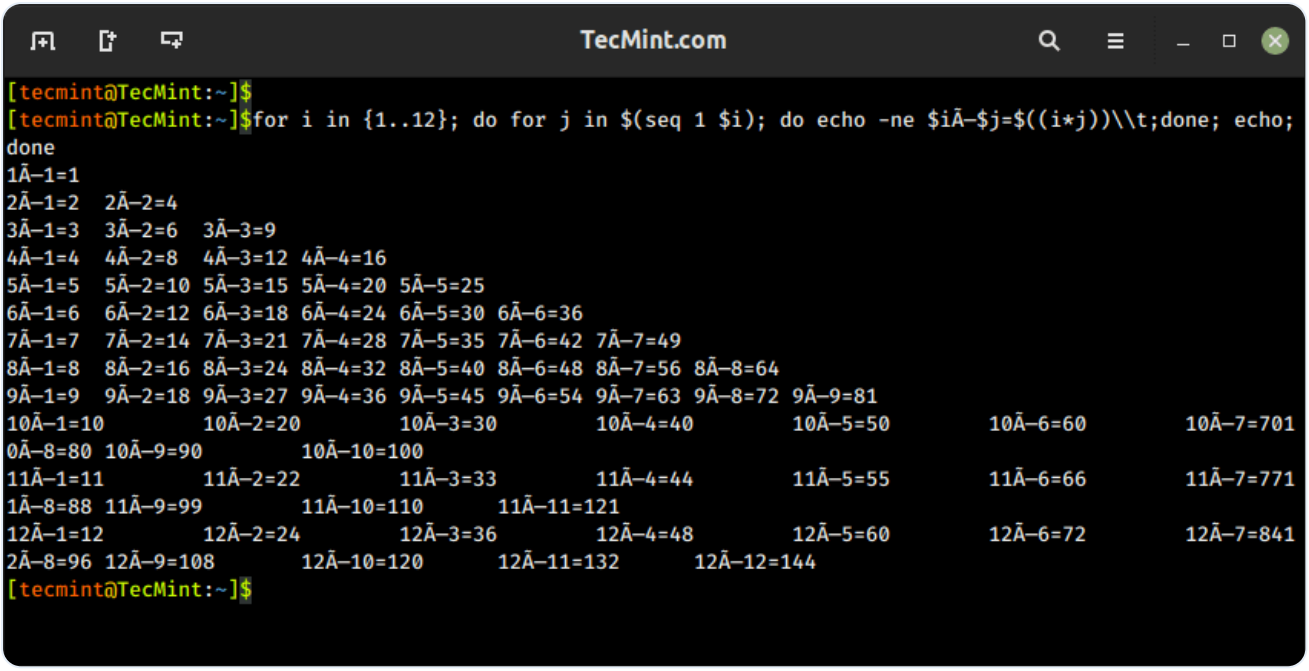
This is not a command, but a nested loop in Bash that prints a multiplication table from 1 to 12. It uses two variables, i and j, to iterate through the numbers and calculates their product.

```
$ 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.



Prints Multiplication Table in Linux

7. cowsay Command

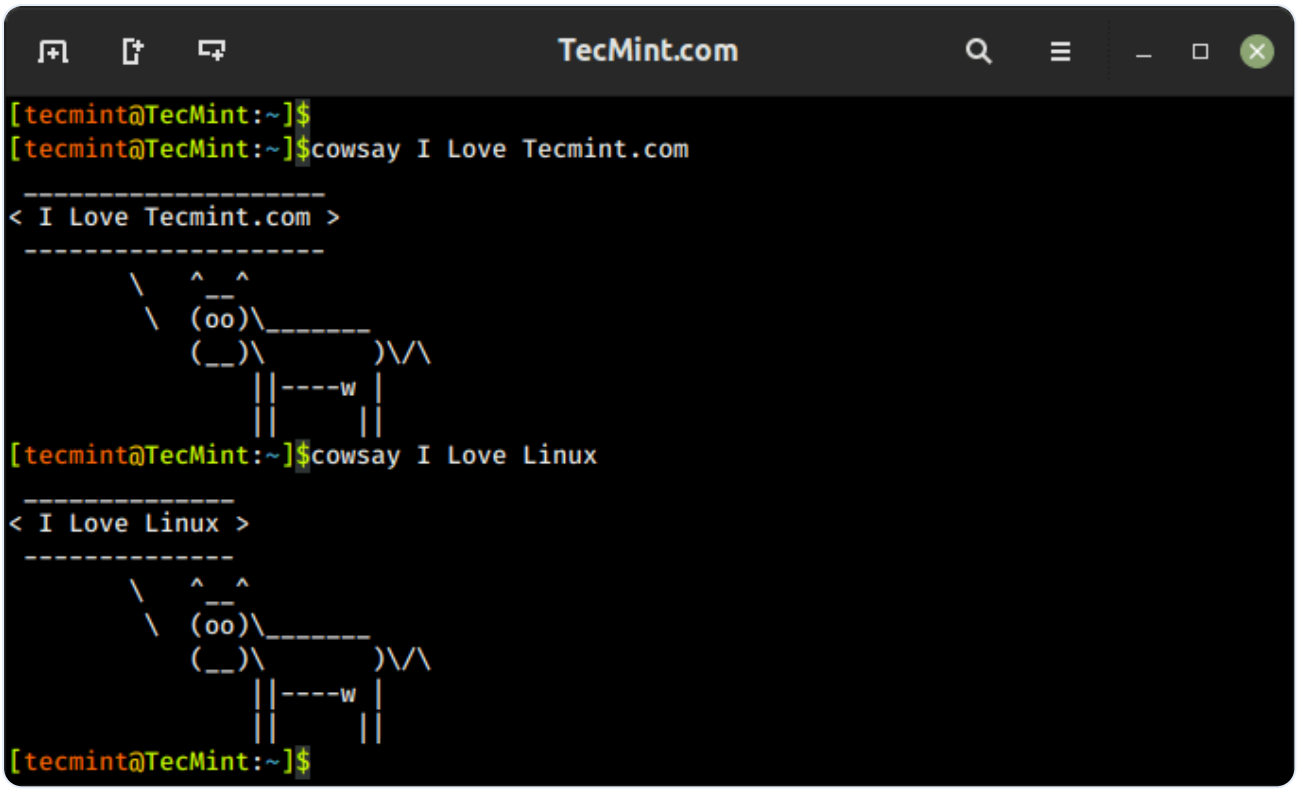
The **cowsay** command is used to generate an ASCII art representation of a cow or other animals with speech or thought bubbles containing a customizable message.

Install cowsay Command

```
$ sudo apt install cowsay          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install cowsay          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinu
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/cowsay   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add cowsay              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S cowsay            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install cowsay       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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

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

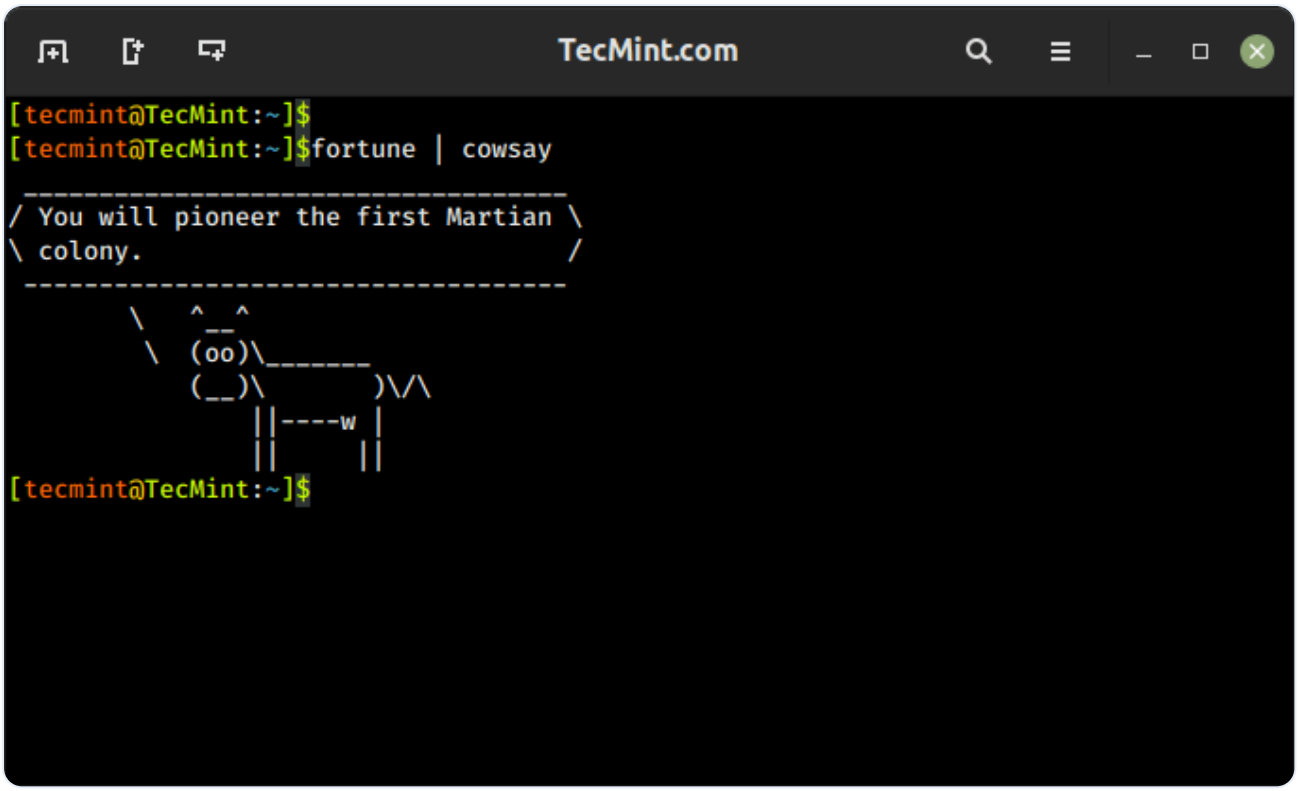


Generate ASCII Art of Text

To combine the **fortune** with the **cowsay** command to display a random fortune message using a pipe (|) to pass the output 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
```



Display Random Fortune Message

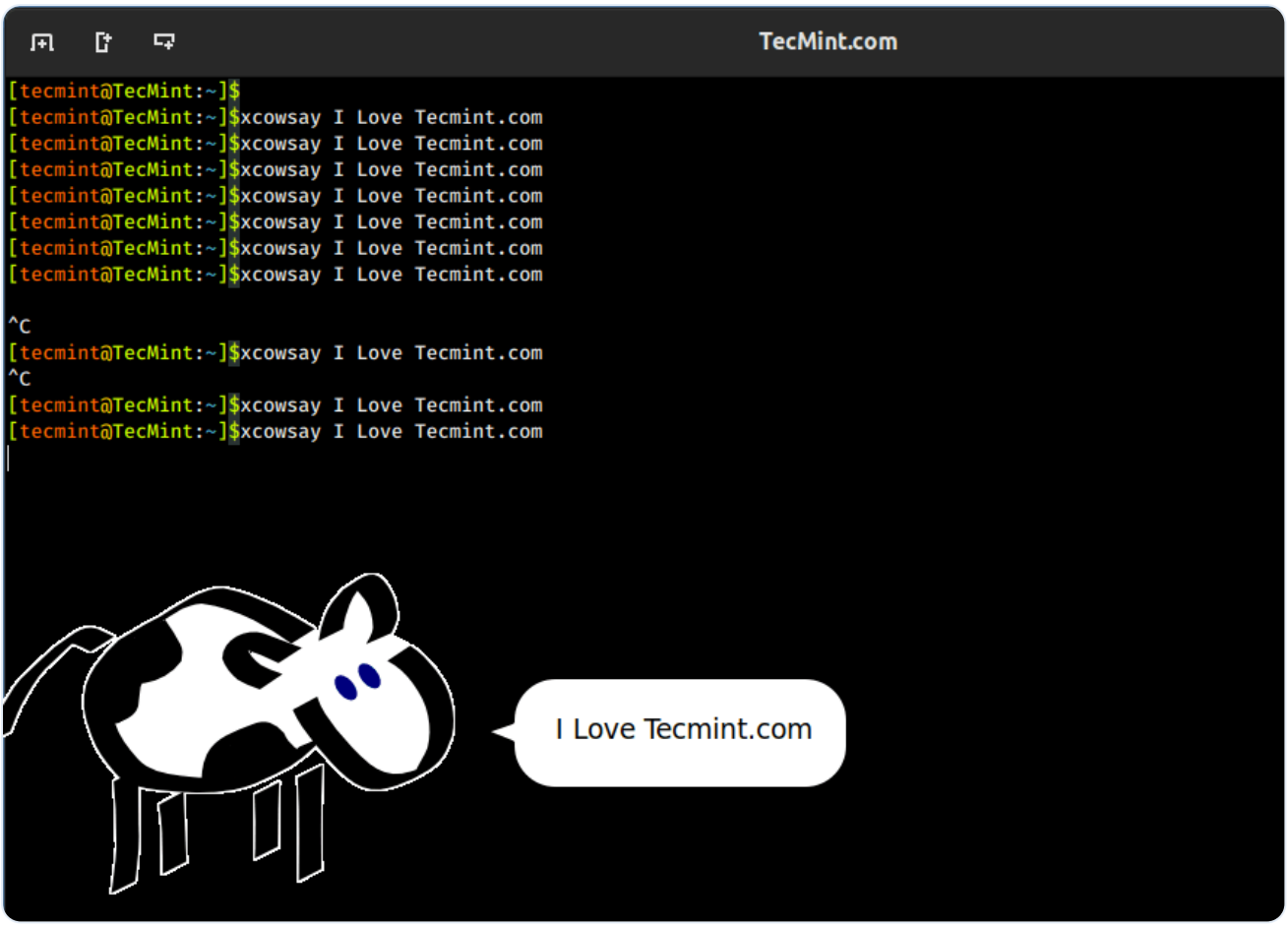
xcowsay is a graphical program that response similar to cowsay but in a graphical manner, that generates an animated speech bubble with a customizable message, usually featuring a cow or other characters, on the desktop.

Install xcowsay Command

```
$ sudo apt install xcowsay          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install xcowsay          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLir
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/xcowsay   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add xcowsay              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S xcowsay            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install xcowsay       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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

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

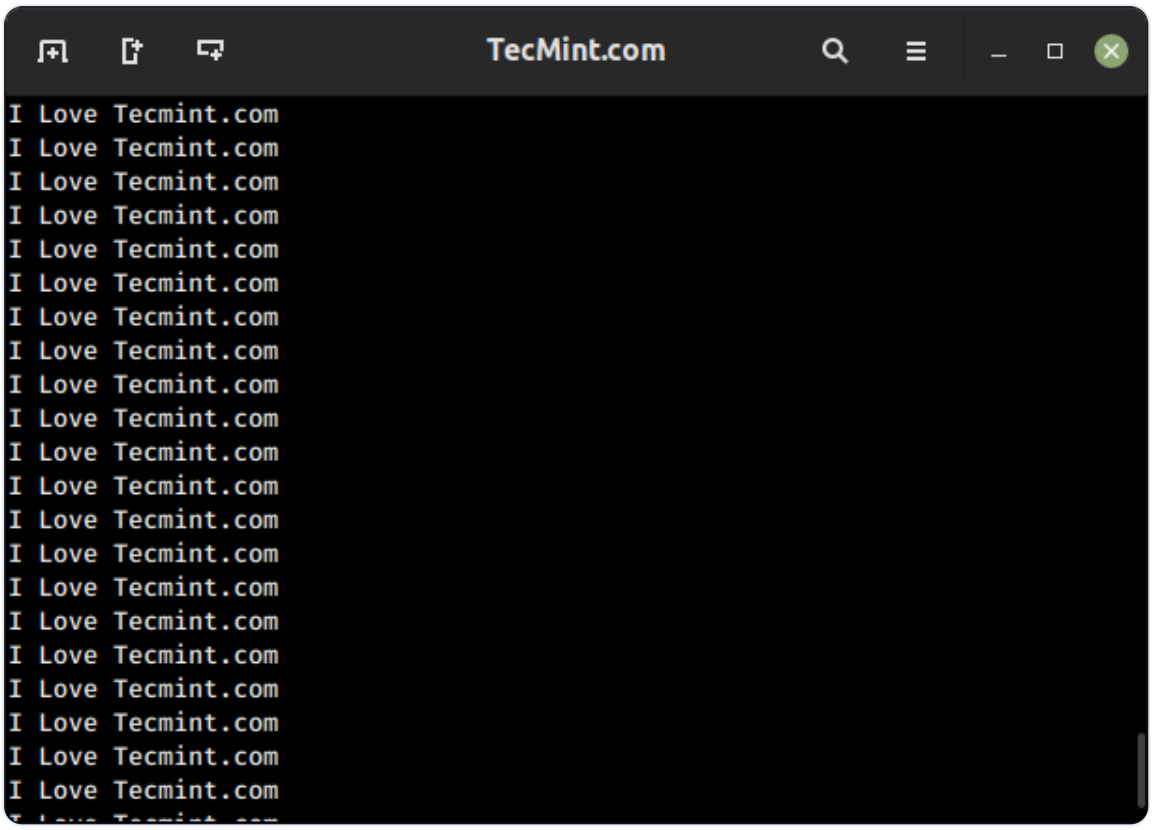


Show Animated ASCII Art on Linux

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
```



Prints Continuous Stream of Text

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

```
$ sudo apt install toilet          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install toilet          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinu
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/toilet   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add toilet              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S toilet            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install toilet       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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

```
$ toilet TecMint.com
```

Generate Text Banner in Linux

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

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

Print Large Text Banner on Linux

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

```
$ sudo apt install cmatrix          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install cmatrix          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLir
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/cmatrix   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add cmatrix              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S cmatrix            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install cmatrix       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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
```

Show Animated Matrix Like Text in Linux

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

```
$ sudo apt install oneko          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install oneko          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/oneko   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add oneko              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S oneko            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install oneko       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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

```
$ oneko
```

Show Animated Mouse Cat on Linux

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.

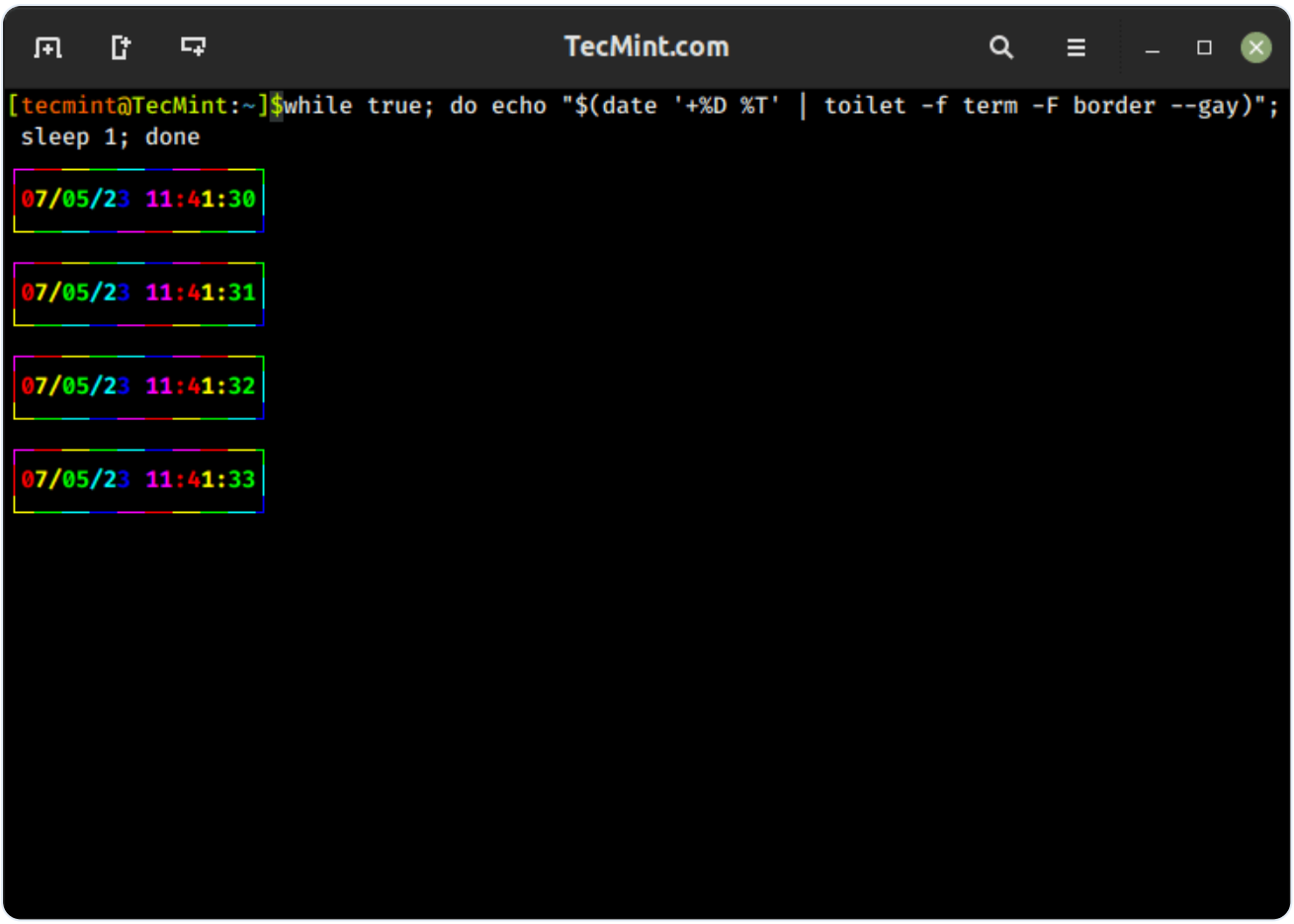
13. while Command

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.

```
e; do echo "$(date '+%D %T' | toilet -f term -F border --gay)"; sleep 1; done
```

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
```



Prints Current Date and Time in Linux

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

```
lear; echo "$(date '+%D %T' | toilet -f term -F border --gay)"; sleep 1; done
```

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 apt install espeak          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install espeak          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinu
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/espeak   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add espeak              [On Alpine Linux]
```

```
$ 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

```
$ sudo apt install libaa-bin     [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install aalib         [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/aalib  [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add aalib             [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S aalib           [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install aalib      [On OpenSUSE]
```

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

```
$ aafire
```

Show Fire in Linux

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

```
$ sudo apt install bb     [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install bb         [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux]
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/bb  [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add bb             [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S bb           [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install bb      [On OpenSUSE]
```

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 curl command, you need to use the Twitter API's POST endpoint for creating a tweet as shown.

```
=Your%20status%20message" "https://api.twitter.com/1.1/statuses/update.json"
```

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 Debian-based systems, you can install ASCIIquarium with the following commands.

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

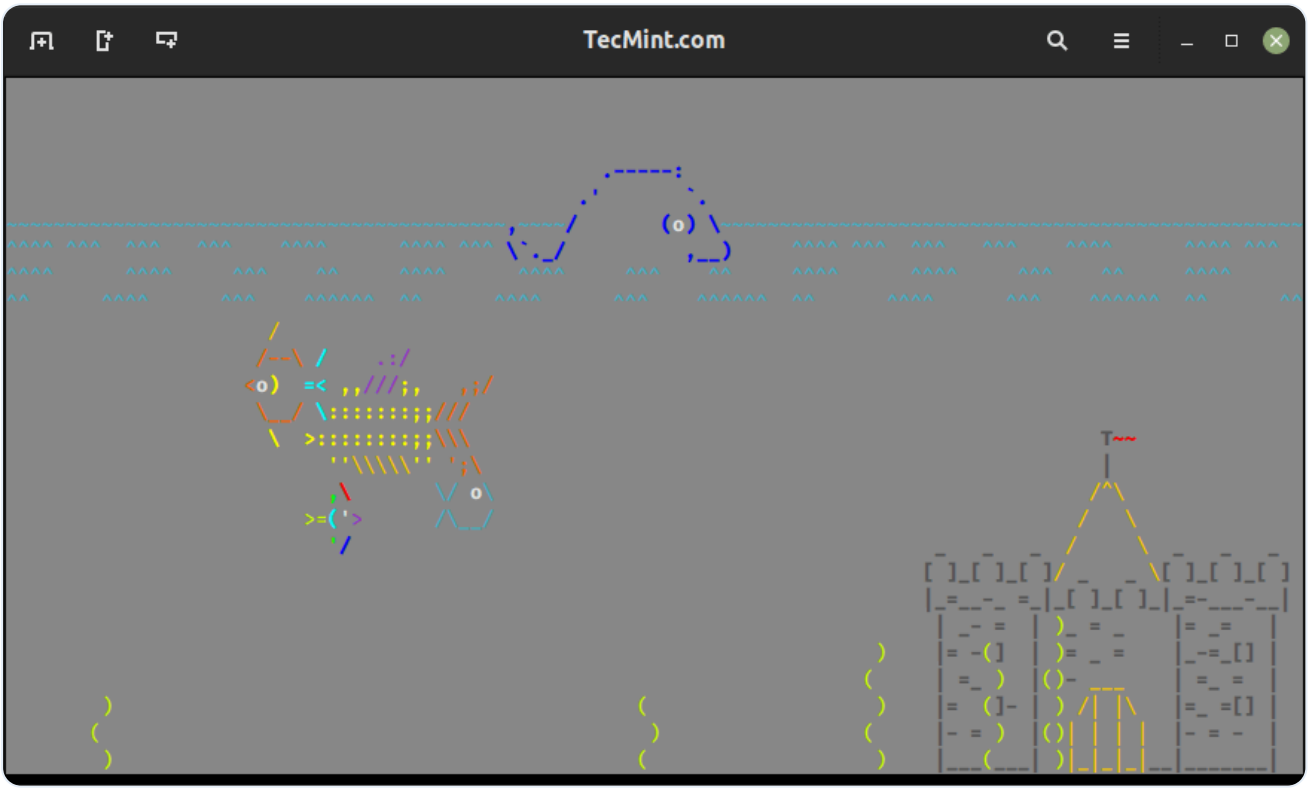
```
$ sudo apt install libcurses-perl
$ sudo apt install libcurses-perl
$ wget https://cpan.metacpan.org/authors/id/K/KB/KBAUCOM/Term-Animation-2.5
$ tar xzf Term-Animation-2.5.tar.gz
$ cd Term-Animation-2.5/
$ perl Makefile.PL
$ make
$ sudo make install
```

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
```



Show ASCIIquarium in Linux

19. Funny Linux Man Pages

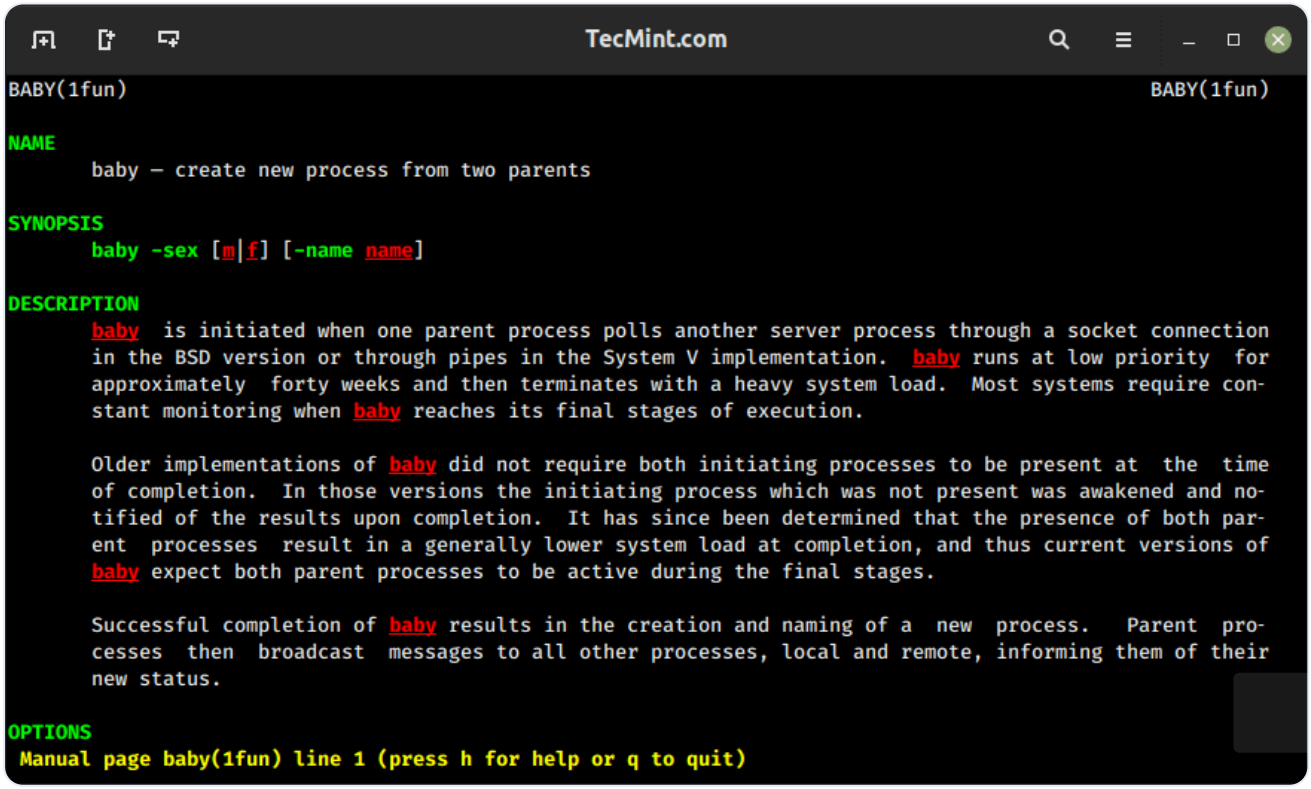
Funny man pages, also known as “man pages with attitude,” are entertaining versions of the traditional Linux man pages, as they don’t offer abt serious or practical information, they are meant to bring a smile to your face.

Install Funny Man Pages

```
$ sudo apt install funny-manpages          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install funny-manpages          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/funny-manpages   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add funny-manpages              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S funny-manpages            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install funny-manpages       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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
```



Linux Funny Man Pages

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?

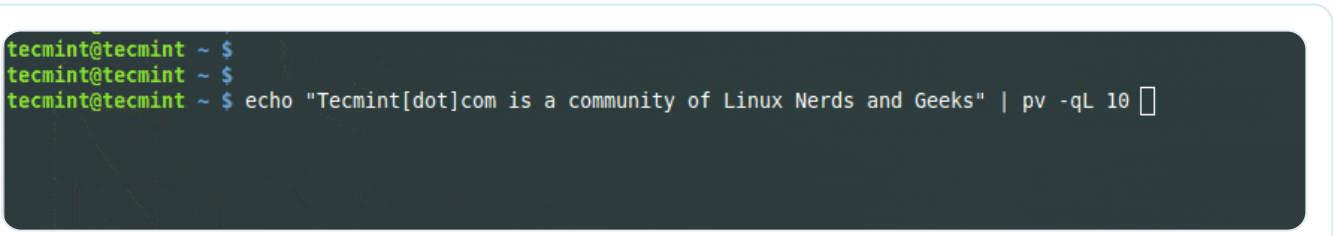
This can be achieved, by installing the pv command (pipe viewer), which is used to monitor the progress of data through a pipeline.

Install pv Command

```
$ sudo apt install pv          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install pv          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux]
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/pv   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add pv              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S pv            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install pv       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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 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

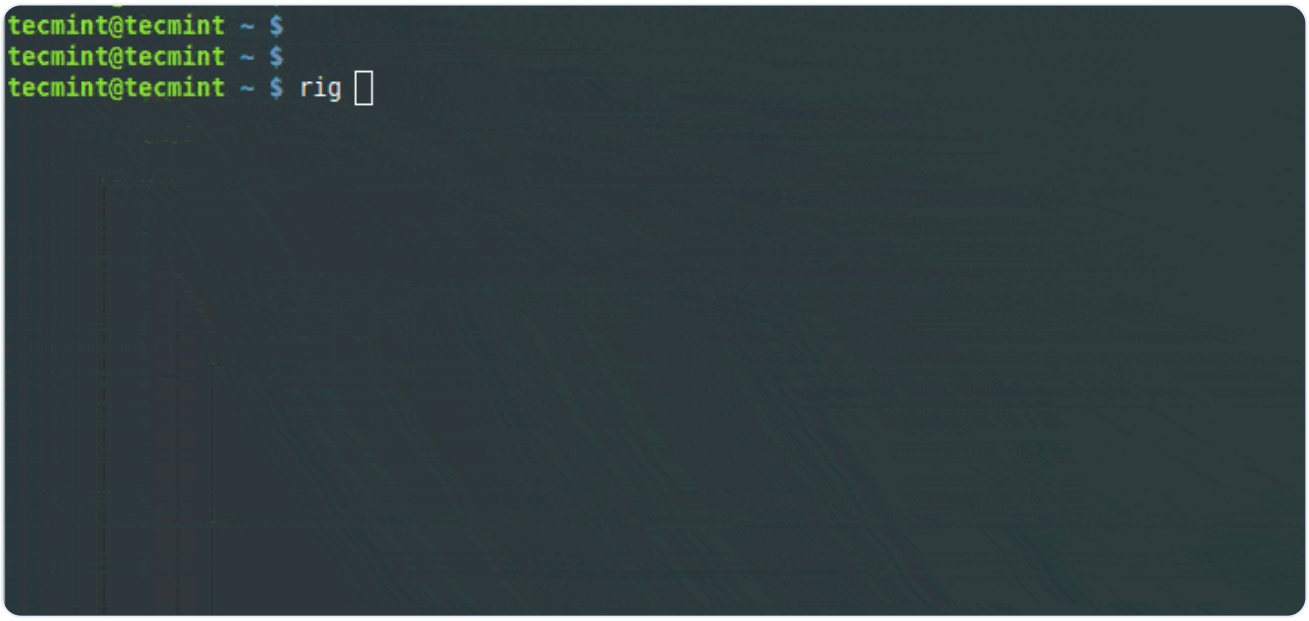
The rig short for "Random Identity Generator" is a command that is used to generate random fake identities for testing, simulation, or other purposes.

Install rig Command

```
$ sudo apt install rig          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install rig          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux]
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/rig   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add rig              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S rig            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install rig       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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

```
$ rig
```



Generate Fake Identities in Linux

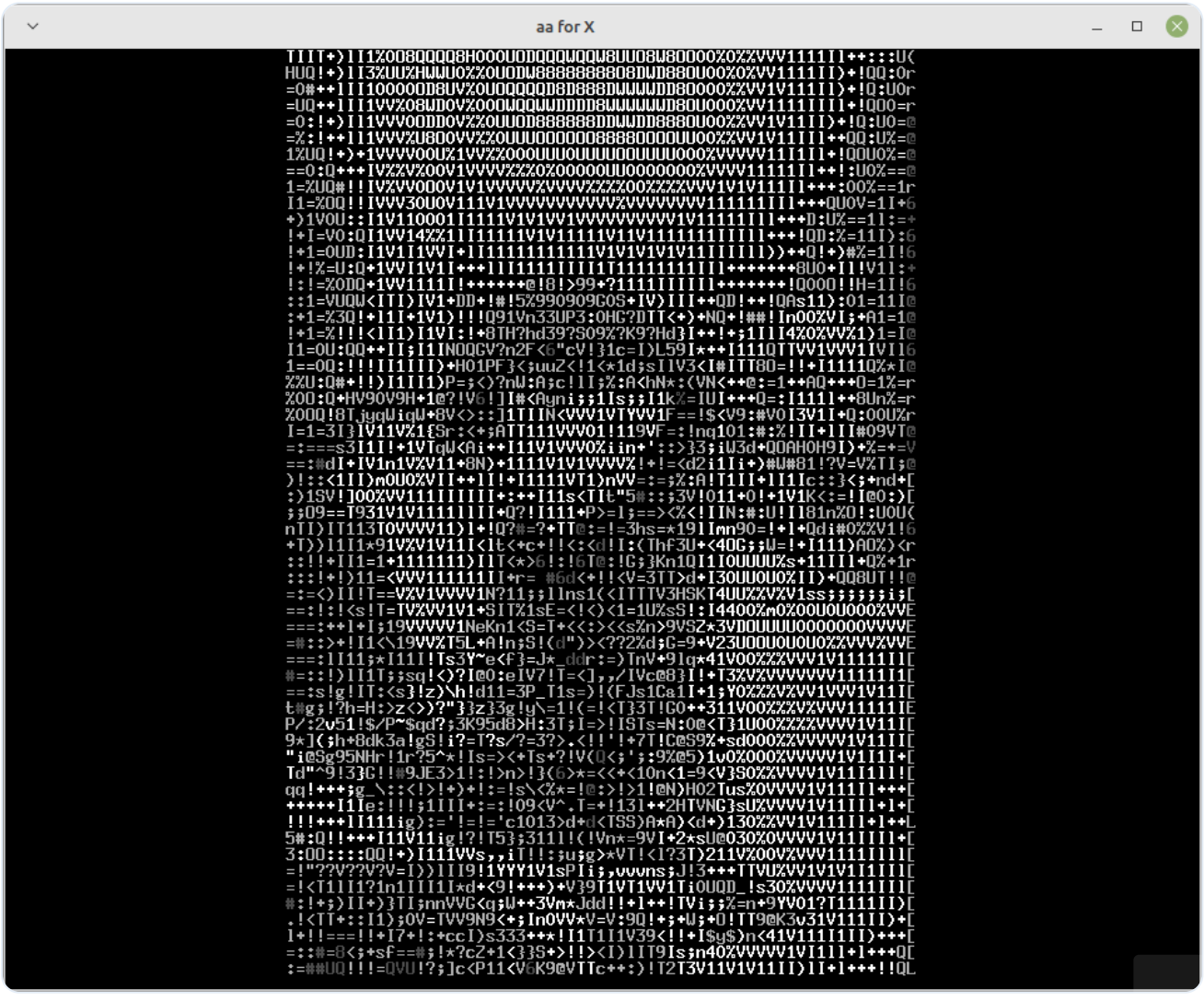
22. aview Command

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.

```
$ sudo apt install aview          [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install aview          [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/aview   [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add aview              [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S aview            [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install aview       [On OpenSUSE]
```

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
```



View Image in Linux Terminal

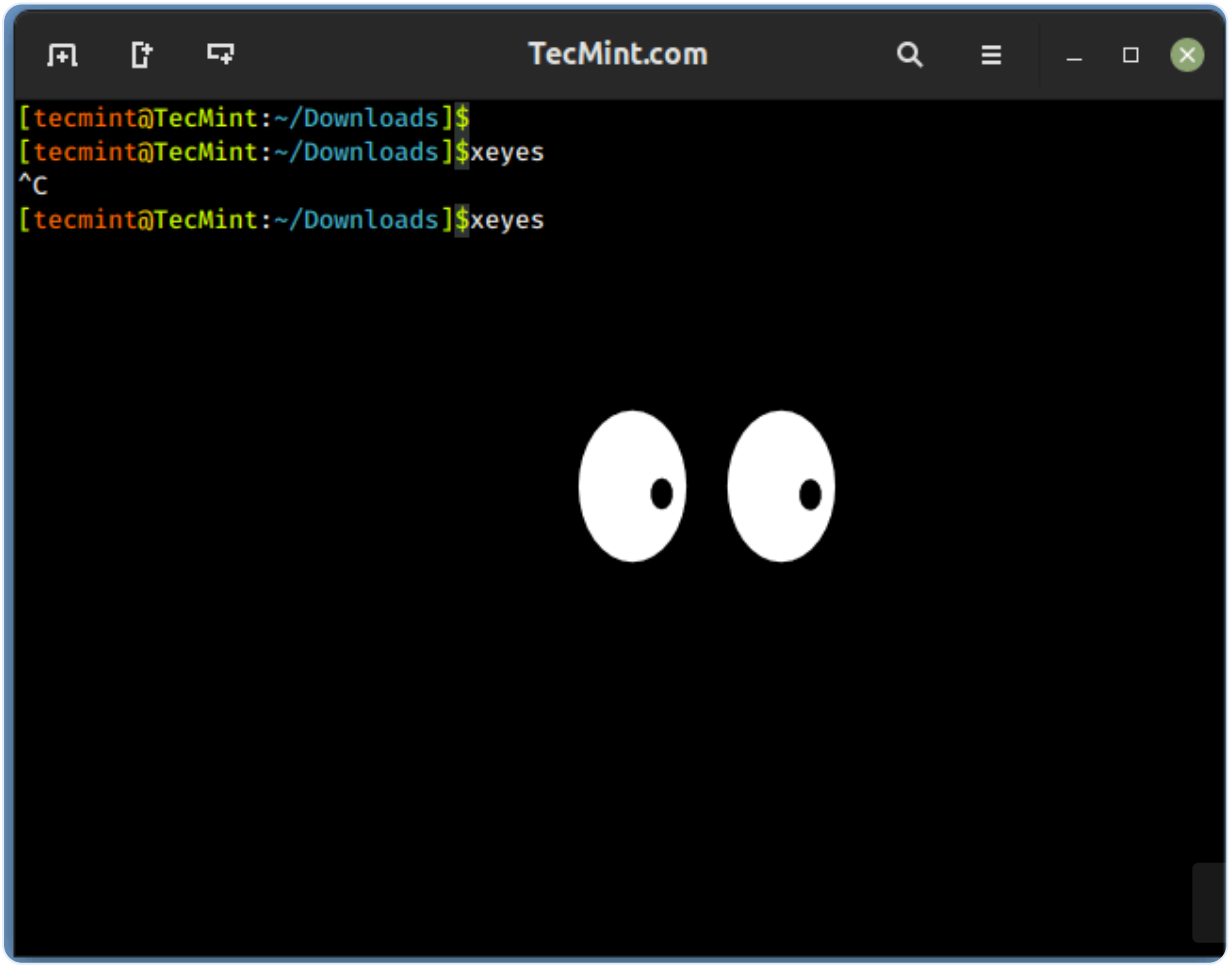
23. xeyes Command

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.

```
$ sudo apt install x11-apps     [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install xeyes        [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux
$ sudo emerge -a sys-apps/xeyes [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add xeyes            [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S xeyes          [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install xeyes     [On OpenSUSE]
```

Once installed, run:

```
$ xeyes
```



Show Pair of Eyes in Linux

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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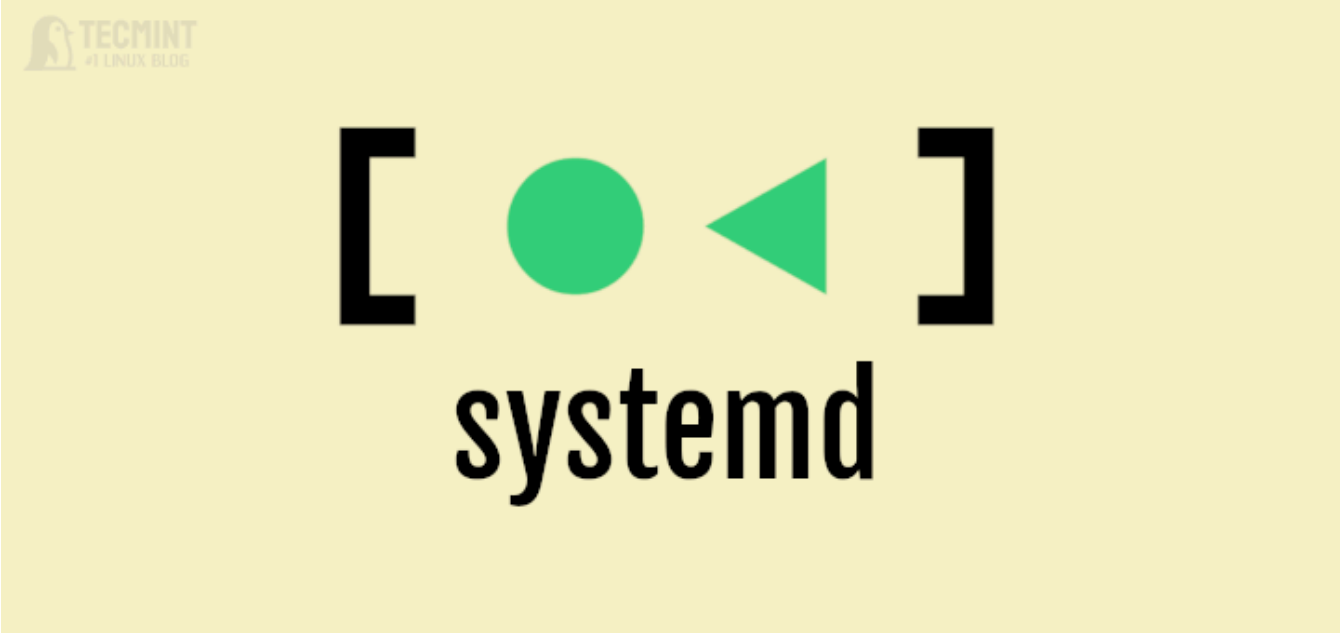

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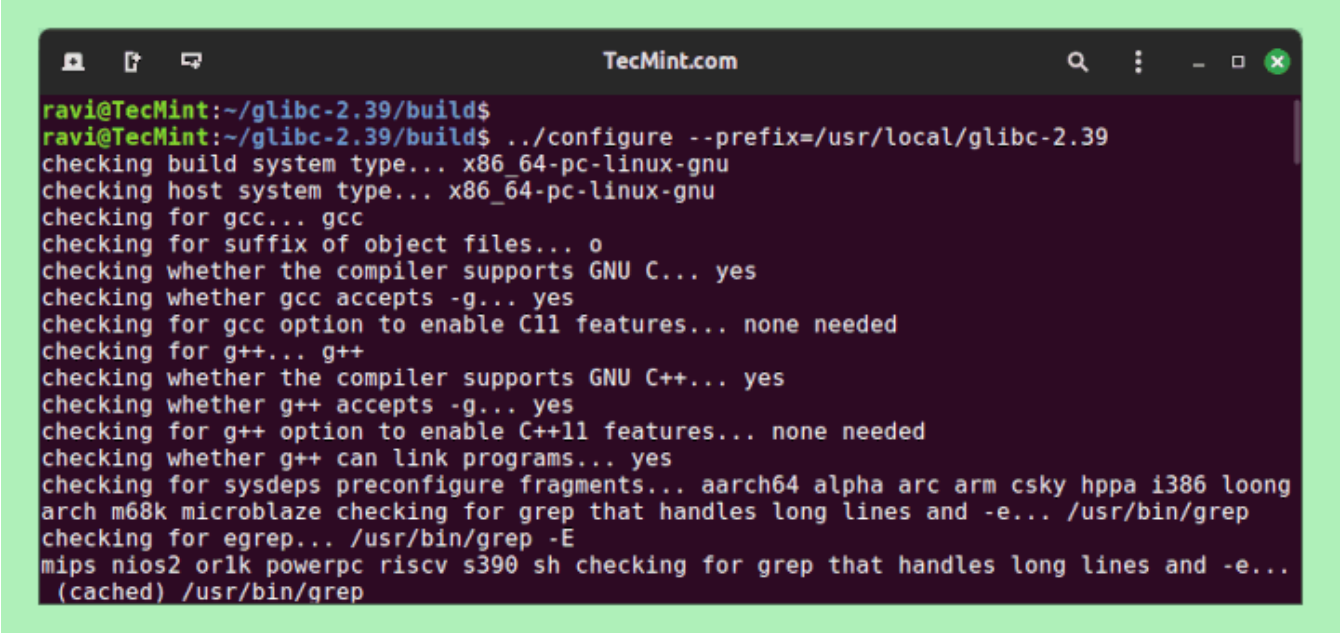

How to Install and Run Multiple glibc Libraries in Linux

212 Comments

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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!

Reply

nthapa

February 29, 2024 at 6:06 pm

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

Reply

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.

Reply

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...

Reply

T

June 2, 2021 at 3:38 pm

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

Reply

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

Reply

Golden Doge

February 1, 2021 at 12:04 am

To install **sh** on Arch Linux / Manjaro type:

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

Reply

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
```

Reply

Tejas Bhandigare

January 8, 2021 at 10:50 am

Which command is used to execute the name?

Reply

Blacksquad

October 8, 2020 at 10:54 am

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

```
  _____   _                          _
 |_   _| | |__     __ _   _ __    | | __          _   _    ___
_   _
  | |   | '_ \   / _` | | '_ \  | |/ /         | | | |  / _ \  |
| | |
  | |   | | | | | (_| | | | | | | |   <          | |_| | | (_) | |
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  |_|   |_| |_|  \__,_| |_| |_| |_|\_\____   _____\__, |  \___/
\__,_|
                                          |_____| |_____|___/
```

Reply

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).

Reply

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 !

Reply

Les

November 15, 2019 at 9:05 am

This was a very informative article. Thanks alot.

Reply

AyScorch

March 8, 2019 at 3:37 am

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

Reply

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
```

Reply

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
```

Reply

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.

Reply

Oronate

December 29, 2019 at 4:56 am

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

Reply

Liz Thompson

September 16, 2018 at 7:54 am

asciiview saving just does not work for me

Reply

2048.run

August 27, 2018 at 5:13 pm

```
ssh 2048.run
telnet 2048.run
```

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

Reply

Just a guy

April 16, 2018 at 6:14 pm

BB is the best one!!

Reply

knowitall

April 12, 2018 at 11:16 am

these are not commands, there are apps

Reply

Spencer D'Amour

January 31, 2018 at 9:23 am

Wow! This is awesome. I just started computer science, time to have some fun while studying. Thank you so much!

Reply

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