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Linux Shell Commands

1. ls (list): View file list

```
ls  # Display file list
ls -l  # Show detailed information
ls -t  # Display files sorted by modification time
ls -lh  # Show file sizes in a human-readable format
```

2. pwd (print working directory): Print current path

```
pwd # Print current path
```

- / : root directory
- /home : home directory under root
- /home/user: user directory under home directory

3. mkdir (make directory): Create a new directory

4. cd (change directory): Change working directory

```
cd ..  # Move to the parent directory
cd /  # Move to the root directory
cd ~  # Move to the home directory
cd -  # Move to the previous directory
cd dir2  # Move to dir2 in the current directory
cd ./dir1/dir2 # Move using a relative path
cd ~/dir1/ # Move to dir1 inside the home directory
cd /dir1/dir2 # Move using an absolute path
```

5. File creation and editing

```
touch text.txt  # Create an empty file
emacs -nw text.txt  # Edit file using Emacs
nano text.txt  # Edit file using Nano
vim text.txt  # Edit file using Vim
```

Emacs basic shortcuts

```
    Save: Ctrl + x then Ctrl + s
    Exit: Ctrl + x then Ctrl + c
```

Nano basic shortcuts

• CTRL + X: Exit file (prompts for saving changes before exiting)

6. echo and redirection

7. cp (copy): Copy files/directories

```
cp text.txt ./dir1  # Copy a file
cp text.txt ./dir1/change.txt # Copy a file with a new name
cp ./*.pdf dir1/  # Copy all PDF files
```

8. mv (move/rename): Move files and rename them

```
mv oldname.txt newname.txt # Rename a file
mv file.txt ./dir2/ # Move a file
```

9. rm (remove): Delete files

```
rm text.txt  # Delete a file
rm -r dir1  # Delete an entire directory
rmdir dir1  # Delete an empty directory
```

10. Display file contents

```
cat text.txt # Show entire file contents
head text.txt # Show first part of the file (default: 10 lines)
tail text.txt # Show last part of the file (default: 10 lines)
more text.txt # Display file page by page (Enter: 1 line, Space: one page)
less text.txt # Similar to `more` but allows scrolling with arrow keys
```

11. tar: Compression and extraction

A .tar file, short for **Tape Archive**, is a file format used to bundle multiple files and directories into a single archive file. It is commonly used in Linux and Unix systems for packaging and distributing files. However, a .tar file itself is not compressed—it simply groups files together. Compression can be added using tools like gzip or bzip2, resulting in files like .tar.gz or .tar.bz2.

Key Features of tar Files:

- 1. **Archiving**: It combines multiple files and directories into one file, preserving the directory structure and metadata (e.g., permissions, timestamps).
- 2. No Compression: By default, tar does not reduce file size; it only groups files.
- 3. **Compression Add-ons**: Tools like gzip or bzip2 are often used alongside tar to compress the archive.

Common tar Commands:

• Create an archive:

```
tar -cvf archive.tar file1 file2 directory/
```

- ∘ −c: Create a new archive.
- o −v: Verbose mode (shows progress).
- -f: Specify the archive file name.
- Extract an archive:

```
tar -xvf archive.tar
```

- ∘ −x: Extract files from the archive.
- Compress with gzip:

```
tar -zcvf archive.tar.gz file1 file2
```

- -z: Compress with gzip.
- Extract a gzip-compressed archive:

```
tar -xvzf archive.tar.gz
```

∘ -z: Decompress with gzip during extraction.

12. gzip, gunzip

```
gzip test.txt  # Compress a file
zcat test.txt.gz  # Display contents of a compressed file
gunzip test.txt.gz # Decompress a file
```

13. grep: Search for strings

```
grep "Hello" test.txt  # Find lines containing the string
grep -ni "hello" text.txt # Search with line numbers (case insensitive)
```

14. Pipes ()

```
head abc.txt | grep xyz  # Search for "xyz" in the first 10 lines
zcat abc.txt.gz | grep "xyz" # Search within a compressed file
```

15. chmod (change mode)

The chmod command is used to change the permissions of a file or directory. Permissions are represented as a combination of read (r), write (w), and execute (x) for three categories: owner, group, and others.

Common Permission Values:

- r (read): Allows reading the file or listing the directory contents.
- w (write): Allows modifying the file or adding/removing files in a directory.
- x (execute): Allows executing the file (if it's a script or program) or accessing the directory.

Numeric Representation:

Permissions can also be represented numerically:

- 4: Read (r)
- 2: Write (w)
- 1: Execute (x)

The sum of these values determines the permission for each category. For example:

- 7 = 4 (read) + 2 (write) + 1 (execute) = Full permissions
- 5 = 4 (read) + 1 (execute) = Read and execute

• 6 = 4 (read) + 2 (write) = Read and write

Examples:

```
chmod 777 text.txt  # Grant all permissions  # (read, write, execute) to everyone  
chmod 755 script.sh  # Full permissions for owner,  # read and execute for group and others  
chmod 644 file.txt  # Read and write for owner,  # read—only for group and others  
chmod +x script.sh  # Add execute permission for everyone  
chmod u+x script.sh  # Remove write permission for the owner only  
chmod g-w file.txt  # Remove write permission for the group  
chmod o+r file.txt  # Add read permission for others
```

Symbolic Representation:

Instead of numeric values, you can use symbolic notation:

- u: Owner
- g: Group
- 0: Others
- a: All (owner, group, and others)

Use Cases:

• Granting execute permissions to a script:

```
chmod +x script.sh
```

• Restricting write access to a file:

```
chmod -w file.txt
```

• Setting specific permissions for a directory:

```
chmod 755 /path/to/directory
```

16. Search files and directories

The find command is a powerful utility for searching files and directories based on various criteria such as name, type, size, permissions, and more.

Syntax:

```
find [path] [expression]
```

Common Options:

- -name: Search for files or directories by name (case-sensitive).
- -iname: Search for files or directories by name (case-insensitive).
- -type: Specify the type of file to search for:
 - o f: Regular file
 - o d: Directory
- -size: Search for files based on size.
 - +: Greater than (e.g., +1M for files larger than 1 MB).
 - -: Less than (e.g., -500k for files smaller than 500 KB).
- -perm: Search for files with specific permissions.
- -exec: Execute a command on the matching files.

Examples:

• Search for a file named "Handong" in the current directory:

```
find . -name "Handong"
```

• Search for a file named "handong" (case-insensitive):

```
find . -iname "handong"
```

• Search for all directories named "config":

```
find /path/to/search -type d -name "config"
```

• Search for files larger than 10 MB:

```
find /path/to/search -type f -size +10M
```

• Search for files with 777 permissions:

```
find /path/to/search -perm 777
```

• Delete all . tmp files in a directory:

```
find /path/to/search -type f -name "*.tmp" -exec rm {} \;
```

• Search for files modified in the last 7 days:

```
find /path/to/search -type f -mtime -7
```

• Search for files accessed more than 30 days ago:

```
find /path/to/search -type f -atime +30
```

• Use -maxdepth to limit the search depth:

```
find . -maxdepth 2 -name "*.txt"
```

Use -mindepth to skip shallow levels:

```
find . -mindepth 3 -name "*.txt"
```

17. Process and system monitoring

```
top  # Real-time system resource monitoring
htop  # Enhanced `top` command
ps aux  # List running processes
kill 1234  # Terminate a process whose ID is 1234
```

18. Network-related commands

18.1 ssh (Secure Shell)

The ssh command is used to securely log in to a remote machine over a network.

```
ssh user@192.168.1.100
```

- user: The username on the remote machine.
- 192.168.1.100: The IP address or hostname of the remote machine.

18.2 scp (Secure Copy)

The scp command is used to securely copy files between a local and a remote machine or between two remote machines.

```
scp file.txt user@remote:/path/
```

- file.txt: The file to be copied.
- user@remote: The username and hostname/IP address of the remote machine.
- /path/: The destination directory on the remote machine.

18.3 wget (Web Get)

The wget command is used to download files from the web.

```
wget https://example.com/file.zip
```

• https://example.com/file.zip: The URL of the file to be downloaded.

18.4 curl (Client URL)

The curl command is a versatile tool for transferring data from or to a server. It supports various protocols, including HTTP, HTTPS, FTP, and more.

Download a file with the same name:

```
curl -0 https://example.com/file.zip
```

• -0: Save the file with its original name from the URL.

Download a file and save it with a custom name:

```
curl -o custom_name.zip https://example.com/file.zip
```

• -o custom_name.zip: Save the file with the specified name (custom_name.zip).

19. Disk and file system management

```
df -h  # Check disk usage
du -sh /path/ # Check storage usage of a specific directory
mount  # Mount a disk
```

20. Ownership Management

The chown command is used to change the ownership of files and directories. Ownership is divided into two categories: the user (owner) and the group.

Syntax:

```
chown [OPTIONS] USER:GROUP FILE
```

Examples:

• Change the owner of a file:

```
chown user file.txt
```

• Change the owner and group of a file:

```
chown user:group file.txt
```

• Change ownership recursively for a directory and its contents:

```
chown -R user:group /path/to/directory
```

Options:

- -R: Apply changes recursively to all files and subdirectories.
- --reference=RFILE: Use the ownership of RFILE as a reference for the target file.

Use Cases:

• Assign a new owner to a file:

```
chown alice report.doc
```

• Change ownership of all files in a directory:

```
chown -R bob:staff /project/files
```

Notes:

- Only the root user or a user with sufficient privileges can change ownership.
- Use ls −l to verify ownership changes:

```
ls -l file.txt
```

• Combine with sudo if necessary:

```
sudo chown user:group file.txt
```

21. rsync: Remote File Synchronization

The rsync command is a powerful utility for synchronizing files and directories between local and remote systems. It is commonly used for backups and mirroring.

Syntax:

```
rsync [OPTIONS] SOURCE DESTINATION
```

Examples:

• Sync files from a local directory to a remote server:

```
rsync -avz /local/ user@remote:/backup/
```

- ∘ —a: Archive mode (preserves symbolic links, permissions, timestamps, etc.)
- ∘ -v: Verbose mode (displays progress)
- ∘ -z: Compress data during transfer
- Sync files from a remote server to a local directory:

```
rsync -avz user@remote:/backup/ /local/
```

• Perform a dry run to preview changes without making them:

```
rsync -avz --dry-run /local/ user@remote:/backup/
```

Use Cases:

• Backing up files to a remote server.

- Synchronizing directories between systems.
- Efficiently transferring large datasets.

Notes:

• Use ——delete to remove files in the destination that are not present in the source:

```
rsync -avz --delete /local/ user@remote:/backup/
```

• Combine with ssh for secure transfers:

```
rsync -e ssh -avz /local/ user@remote:/backup/
```

22. Other Utilities

```
clear  # Clear terminal screen
stat text.txt  # Check file attributes
wc text.txt  # Count words and lines
file text.txt  # Check file type
history  # View command history
man ls  # View command manual
```

23. Quick Reference

File/Directory Management

Command	Function	Example Usage
ls	Display the list of files and folders in the current directory	ls -l
pwd	Print the current working directory (path)	pwd
cd	Navigate between directories (change path)	cd /home/user
mkdir	Create a new directory	mkdir new_folder
rmdir	Delete an empty directory	rmdir empty_directory
mv	Move or rename a file/directory	mv old.txt new.txt
ср	Copy a file/directory	cp file.txt /backup/
rm	Delete a file or directory (use -r option for directories)	rm -r folder
touch	Create an empty file or update its timestamp	touch file.txt
	_	

Command	Function	Example Usage
ln	Create a symbolic (or hard) link	<pre>ln -s target.txt link.txt</pre>
file	Check the file type (e.g., text, binary)	file example.pdf

Viewing and Comparing File Contents

Command	Function	Example Usage
cat	Display the entire content of a file	cat file.txt
less	View file content page by page and scroll	less /var/log/syslog
head	Display the first specified number of lines of a file	head -n 10 file.txt
tail	Display the last specified number of lines of a file	tail -n 10 file.txt
diff	Compare two files line by line	<pre>diff file1.txt file2.txt</pre>
стр	Compare two files byte by byte	cmp file1.txt file2.txt
comm	Display common and unique lines between two sorted files	comm file1.txt file2.txt
sort	Sort and display the content of a file	sort file.txt

Text and Output Processing

Command	Function	Example Usage
echo	Print text or strings	echo "Hello World"
export	Set environment variables (for the current shell)	<pre>export PATH=\$PATH:/new/path</pre>
alias	Create shortcuts (aliases) for frequently used commands	alias ll='ls -l'

Compression/Archiving

Command	Function	Example Usage
tar	Create or extract archives of files/directories	tar -czvf archive.tar.gz folder/
zip	Compress files (ZIP format)	zip archive.zip file1 file2
unzip	Extract ZIP files	unzip archive.zip

System Information

Command	Function	Example Usage

Command	Function	Example Usage
uname	Display system and kernel information	uname —a
whoami	Display the current logged-in username	whoami
man	View the manual page for a command	man ls
free	Check system memory usage and availability	free -h
history	View the history of entered commands	history

Process Management

Command	Function	Example Usage
top	Monitor system resources and processes in real-time	top
htop	Interactive process monitoring (alternative to top)	htop
ps	Display a list of currently running processes	ps aux
kill	Terminate a process by its ID (or use killall)	kill 1234 or killall firefox
jobs	View background/foreground jobs in the current shell	jobs
time	Measure the execution time of a command	time ls -l

Remote/Network

Command	Function	Example Usage
ssh	Securely connect to a remote system (SSH)	ssh user@192.168.1.100
scp	Securely copy files between remote systems using SSH	<pre>scp file.txt user@remote:/path/</pre>
curl	Transfer data to/from a URL (e.g., API testing)	<pre>curl -0 https://example.com/file.zip</pre>
wget	Download files directly using HTTP/HTTPS/FTP protocols	wget https://example.com/file.zip

Disk/File System

Command	Function	Example Usage
df	Check disk usage of file systems (commonly with -h option)	df -h

Command	Function	Example Usage
mount	Mount a file system or device	mount /dev/sdb1 /mnt/usb
du	Summarize disk usage of directories and files	du -sh /path/to/directory

Permissions/Ownership Management

Command	Function	Example Usage
chmod	Change file/directory permissions	chmod 755 script.sh
chown	Change file/directory owner and group	sudo chown user:group file.txt

Miscellaneous Utilities

Command	Function	Example Usage
clear	Clear the terminal screen	clear
whereis	Locate the binary, source, and manual for a command	whereis gcc
whatis	Display a brief description of a command	whatis ls

Package/Permission Management

Command	Function	Example Usage
apt	Package manager for Debian-based systems (install/update, etc.)	sudo apt update
sudo	Execute commands with superuser (admin) privileges	sudo apt upgrade

Additional Commands

Command	Function	Example Usage
hostname	Display or set the system hostname	hostname or hostnamectl set-hostname newname
cal	Display a calendar in the terminal	cal
find	Search for files/directories matching criteria in a path	findname "file.txt"
rsync	Synchronize and back up files/directories	<pre>rsync -avz /local/path/ user@remote:/remote/path/</pre>

Additional Tutorials

Videos

- 생활코딩 Linux @ inflearn
- 생활코딩 Linux @ YouTube

Documents

- Command Line for Beginners Ubuntu
- How to Learn Linux Terminal as a Beginner freeCodeCamp
- Basic Linux Commands GeeksforGeeks
- Linux Commands DigitalOcean
- Linux Commands Hostinger
- Linux Command Line Tutorial freeCodeCamp
- Learning the Shell LinuxCommand.org