Unix / Linux - Useful Commands

This quick guide lists commands, including a syntax and a brief description. For more detail, use −

```
$man command
```

Files and Directories

These commands allow you to create directories and handle files.

> Given below is the list of commands in Files and Directories.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**cat** Displays File Contents
2	**cd** Changes Directory to dirname
3	**chgrp** Changes file group
4	**chmod** Changes permissions
5	**cp** Copies source file into destination
6	**file** Determines file type
7	**find** Finds files
8	**grep** Searches files for regular expressions
9	**head** Displays first few lines of a file
10	**ln** Creates softlink on oldname
11	**ls**

		Displays information about file type
12	**mkdir**	
	Creates a new directory dirname	
13	**more**	
	Displays data in paginated form	
14	**mv**	
	Moves (Renames) an oldname to newname	
15	**pwd**	
	Prints current working directory	
16	**rm**	
	Removes (Deletes) filename	
17	**rmdir**	
	Deletes an existing directory provided it is empty	
18	**tail**	
	Prints last few lines in a file	
19	**touch**	
	Updates access and modification time of a file	

Manipulating data

The contents of files can be compared and altered with the following commands.

> Given below is the list of commands in Manipulating data.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**awk** Pattern scanning and processing language
2	**cmp** Compares the contents of two files
3	**comm** Compares sorted data
4	**cut** Cuts out selected fields of each line of a file
5	**diff** Differential file comparator
6	**expand** Expands tabs to spaces
7	**join** Joins files on some common field
8	**perl** Data manipulation language
9	**sed** Stream text editor
10	**sort** Sorts file data
11	**split**

	Splits file into smaller files
12	**tr**
	Translates characters
13	**uniq**
	Reports repeated lines in a file
14	**wc**
	Counts words, lines, and characters
15	**vi**
	Opens vi text editor
16	**vim**
	Opens vim text editor
17	**fmt**
	Simple text formatter
18	**spell**
	Checks text for spelling error
19	**ispell**
	Checks text for spelling error
20	**emacs**
	GNU project Emacs
21	**ex, edit**
	Line editor
22	**emacs**

GNU project Emacs

Compressed Files

Files may be compressed to save space. Compressed files can be created and examined.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**compress** Compresses files
2	**gunzip** Helps uncompress gzipped files
3	**gzip** GNU alternative compression method
4	**uncompress** Helps uncompress files
5	**unzip** List, test and extract compressed files in a ZIP archive
6	**zcat** Cat a compressed file
7	**zcmp** Compares compressed files
8	**zdiff** Compares compressed files
9	**zmore** File perusal filter for crt viewing of compressed text

Getting Information

Various Unix manuals and documentation are available on-line. The following Shell commands give information –

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**apropos** Locates commands by keyword lookup
2	**info** Displays command information pages online
2	**man** Displays manual pages online
3	**whatis** Searches the whatis database for complete words
4	**yelp** GNOME help viewer

Network Communication

These following commands are used to send and receive files from a local Unix hosts to the remote host around the world.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**ftp** File transfer program
2	**rcp** Remote file copy
3	**rlogin** Remote login to a Unix host
4	**rsh** Remote shell
5	**tftp** Trivial file transfer program
6	**telnet** Makes terminal connection to another host
7	**ssh** Secures shell terminal or command connection
8	**scp** Secures shell remote file copy
9	**sftp** Secures shell file transfer program

Some of these commands may be restricted at your computer for security reasons.

Messages between Users

The Unix systems support on-screen messages to other users and world-wide electronic mail −

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**evolution** GUI mail handling tool on Linux
2	**mail** Simple send or read mail program
3	**mesg** Permits or denies messages
4	**parcel** Sends files to another user
5	**pine** Vdu-based mail utility
6	**talk** Talks to another user
7	**write** Writes message to another user

Programming Utilities

The following programming tools and languages are available based on what you have installed on your Unix.

> Given below is the list of tools and languages in Programming Utilities.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**dbx** Sun debugger
2	**gdb** GNU debugger
3	**make** Maintains program groups and compile programs
4	**nm** Prints program's name list
5	**size** Prints program's sizes
6	**strip** Removes symbol table and relocation bits
7	**cb** C program beautifier
8	**cc** ANSI C compiler for Suns SPARC systems
9	**ctrace** C program debugger
10	**gcc** GNU ANSI C Compiler
11	**indent**

	Indent and format C program source
12	**bc** Interactive arithmetic language processor
13	**gcl** GNU Common Lisp
14	**perl** General purpose language
15	**php** Web page embedded language
16	**py** Python language interpreter
17	**asp** Web page embedded language
18	**CC** C++ compiler for Suns SPARC systems
19	**g++** GNU C++ Compiler
20	**javac** JAVA compiler
21	**appletvieweir** JAVA applet viewer
22	**netbeans**

		Java integrated development environment on Linux
23	**sqlplus** Runs the Oracle SQL interpreter	
24	**sqlldr** Runs the Oracle SQL data loader	
25	**mysql** Runs the mysql SQL interpreter	

Misc Commands

These commands list or alter information about the system −

Given below is the list of Misc Commands in Unix.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**chfn** Changes your finger information
2	**chgrp** Changes the group ownership of a file
3	**chown** Changes owner
4	**date** Prints the date
5	**determin** Automatically finds terminal type
6	**du** Prints amount of disk usage
7	**echo** Echo arguments to the standard options
8	**exit** Quits the system
9	**finger** Prints information about logged-in users
10	**groupadd** Creates a user group
11	**groups**

	Show group memberships
12	**homequota** Shows quota and file usage
13	**iostat** Reports I/O statistics
14	**kill** Sends a signal to a process
15	**last** Shows last logins of users
16	**logout** Logs off Unix
17	**lun** Lists user names or login ID
18	**netstat** Shows network status
19	**passwd** Changes user password
20	**passwd** Changes your login password
21	**printenv** Displays value of a shell variable
22	**ps**

	Displays the status of current processes
23	**ps** Prints process status statistics
24	**quota -v** Displays disk usage and limits
25	**reset** Resets terminal mode
26	**script** Keeps script of terminal session
27	**script** Saves the output of a command or process
28	**setenv** Sets environment variables
30	**stty** Sets terminal options
31	**time** Helps time a command
32	**top** Displays all system processes
33	**tset** Sets terminal mode
34	**tty**

	Prints current terminal name
35	**umask** Show the permissions that are given to view files by default
36	**uname** Displays name of the current system
37	**uptime** Gets the system up time
38	**useradd** Creates a user account
39	**users** Prints names of logged in users
40	**vmstat** Reports virtual memory statistics
41	**w** Shows what logged in users are doing
42	**who** Lists logged in users