Linux Command Cheat Sheet

Mary Brent (July 30, 2022

In this Linux/Unix command line cheat sheet, you will learn:

- Basic Linux commands
- File Permission commands
- Environment Variables command
- User management commands of linux
- Networking command
- Process command
- VI Editing Commands

Basic Linux commands

Command	Description
ls	Lists all files and directories in the present working directory
ls -R	Lists files in sub-directories as well
ls -a	Lists hidden files as well
ls -al	Lists files and directories with detailed information like permissions, size, owner, etc.
cd or cd ~	Navigate to HOME directory
cd	Move one level up
cd	To change to a particular directory
cd /	Move to the root directory
cat > filename	Creates a new file
cat filename	Displays the file content
<pre>cat file1 file2 > file3</pre>	Joins two files (file1, file2) and stores the output in a new file (file3)
<pre>mv file "new file path"</pre>	Moves the files to the new location
<pre>mv filename new_file_name</pre>	Renames the file to a new filename

Command	Description
sudo	Allows regular users to run programs with the security privileges of the superuser or root
rm filename	Deletes a file
man	Gives help information on a command
history	Gives a list of all past commands typed in the current terminal session
clear	Clears the terminal
mkdir directoryname	Creates a new directory in the present working directory or a at the specified path
rmdir	Deletes a directory
mv	Renames a directory
pr -x	Divides the file into x columns
pr -h	Assigns a header to the file
pr -n	Denotes the file with Line Numbers
lp -nc , lpr c	Prints "c" copies of the File
lp-d lp-P	Specifies name of the printer
apt-get	Command used to install and update packages
<pre>mail -s 'subject' -c 'cc-address' -b 'bcc-address' 'to-address'</pre>	Command to send email
<pre>mail -s "Subject" to-address < Filename</pre>	Command to send email with attachment

File Permission commands

Command	Description
ls -1	to show file type and access permission
r	read permission
W	write permission
x	execute permission
-=	no permission
Chown user	For changing the ownership of a file/directory
Chown user:group filename	change the user as well as group for a file or directory

Environment Variables command

Command	Description	
echo \$VARIABLE	To display value of a variable	
env	Displays all environment variables	
VARIABLE_NAME= variable_value	Create a new variable	
Unset	Remove a variable	
export Variable=value	To set value of an environment variable	

User management commands of linux

Command	Description
sudo adduser username	To add a new user
sudo passwd -l 'username'	To change the password of a user
sudo userdel -r 'username'	To remove a newly created user
sudo usermod -a -G GROUPNAME USERNAME	To add a user to a group
sudo deluser USER GROUPNAME	To remove a user from a group
finger	Shows information of all the users logged in
finger username	Gives information of a particular user

Networking command

Command	Description
SSH username@ip-address or hostname	login into a remote Linux machine using SSH
Ping hostname="" or =""	To ping and Analyzing network and host connections
dir	Display files in the current directory of a remote computer
cd "dirname"	change directory to "dirname" on a remote computer
put file	upload 'file' from local to remote computer
get file	Download 'file' from remote to local computer
quit	Logout

Process command

Command	Description
bg	To send a process to the background
fg	To run a stopped process in the foreground
top	Details on all Active Processes
ps	Give the status of processes running for a user
ps PID	Gives the status of a particular process
pidof	Gives the Process ID (PID) of a process
kill PID	Kills a process
nice	Starts a process with a given priority
renice	Changes priority of an already running process
df	Gives free hard disk space on your system
free	Gives free RAM on your system

VI Editing Commands

Command	Description
i	Insert at cursor (goes into insert mode)
а	Write after cursor (goes into insert mode)
A	Write at the end of line (goes into insert mode)
ESC	Terminate insert mode
u	Undo last change
U	Undo all changes to the entire line
0	Open a new line (goes into insert mode)
dd	Delete line
3dd	Delete 3 lines
D	Delete contents of line after the cursor
С	Delete contents of a line after the cursor and insert new text. Press ESC key to end insertion.
dw	Delete word
4dw	Delete 4 words
CW	Change word
x	Delete character at the cursor
r	Replace character
R	Overwrite characters from cursor onward
S	Substitute one character under cursor continue to insert

Command	Description
S	Substitute entire line and begin to insert at the beginning of the line
~	Change case of individual character

Hope this Linux reference guide helps you!