



# A-Z of Linux Commands

There are literally thousands of commands, so while this is not a complete A-Z, it does contain many of the commands you will most likely need. You will probably find that you end up using a smaller set of commands over and over again but having an overall knowledge is still very useful.

## A

<b>adduser</b>	Add a new user
<b>arch</b>	Print machine architecture
<b>awk</b>	Find and replace text within file(s)

## B

<b>bc</b>	An arbitrary precision calculator language
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## C

<b>cat</b>	Concatenate files and print on the standard output
<b>chdir</b>	Change working directory
<b>chgrp</b>	Change the group ownership of files
<b>chroot</b>	Change root directory
<b>cksum</b>	Print CRC checksum and byte counts
<b>cmp</b>	Compare two files
<b>comm</b>	Compare two sorted files line by line
<b>cp</b>	Copy one or more files to another location
<b>crontab</b>	Schedule a command to run at a later time
<b>csplit</b>	Split a file into context-determined pieces
<b>cut</b>	Divide a file into several parts

## D

<b>date</b>	Display or change the date & time
<b>dc</b>	Desk calculator

<b>dd</b>	Data Dump, convert and copy a file
<b>diff</b>	Display the differences between two files
<b>dirname</b>	Convert a full path name to just a path
<b>du</b>	Estimate file space usage

## E

<b>echo</b>	Display message on screen
<b>ed</b>	A line oriented text editor (edlin)
<b>egrep</b>	Search file(s) for lines that match an extended expression
<b>env</b>	Display, set or remove environment variables
<b>expand</b>	Convert tabs to spaces
<b>expr</b>	Evaluate expressions

## F

<b>factor</b>	Print prime factors
<b>fdisk</b>	Partition table manipulator for Linux
<b>fgrep</b>	Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string
<b>find</b>	Search for files that meet a desired criteria
<b>fmt</b>	Reformat paragraph text
<b>fold</b>	Wrap text to fit a specified width
<b>format</b>	Format disks or tapes
<b>fscck</b>	Filesystem consistency check and repair

## G

<b>gawk</b>	Find and Replace text within file(s)
<b>grep</b>	Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern
<b>groups</b>	Print group names a user is in
<b>gzip</b>	Compress or decompress named file(s)

## H

<b>head</b>	Output the first part of file(s)
<b>hostname</b>	Print or set system name

## I

<b>id</b>	Print user and group ids
<b>info</b>	Help info
<b>install</b>	Copy files and set attributes

## J

<b>join</b>	Join lines on a common field
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## K

<b>kill</b>	Stop a process from running
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## L

<b>less</b>	Display output one screen at a time
<b>ln</b>	Make links between files
<b>locate</b>	Find files

**logname** Print current login name

**lpc** Line printer control program

**lpr** Off line print

**lprm** Remove jobs from the print queue

## M

**man** See Help manual

**mkdir** Create new folder(s)

**mkfifo** Make FIFOs (named pipes)

**mknod** Make block or character special files

**more** Display output one screen at a time

**mount** Mount a file system

## N

**nice** Set the priority of a command or job

**nl** Number lines and write files

**nohup** Run a command immune to hangups

## P

**passwd** Modify a user password

**paste** Merge lines of files

**pathchk** Check file name portability

**pr** Convert text files for printing

**printcap** Printer capability database

**printenv** Print environment variables

**printf** Format and print data

## Q

**quota** Display disk usage and limits

**quotacheck** Scan a file system for disk usage

**quotactl** Set disk quotas

## R

**ram** Ram disk device

**rcp** Copy files between two machines

**rm** Remove files

**rmdir** Remove folder(s)

**rpm** Remote Package Manager

**rsync** Remote file copy (synchronise file trees)

## S

**screen** Terminal window manager

**sdiff** Merge two files interactively

**select** Accept keyboard input

**seq** Print numeric sequences

**shutdown** Shutdown or restart Linux

**sleep** Delay for a specified time

**sort** Sort text files

**split** Split a file into fixed-size pieces

**su** Substitute user identity

**sum** Print a checksum for a file

**symlink** Make a new name for a file

**sync** Synchronise data on disk with memory

## T

**tac** Concatenate and write files in reverse

**tail** Output the last part of files

**tar** Tape Archiver

**tee** Redirect output to multiple files

**test** Evaluate a conditional expression

**time** Measure Program Resource Use

**touch** Change file timestamps

**top** List processes running on the system

**traceroute** Trace Route to Host

**tr** Translate, squeeze and delete characters

**tsort** Topological sort

## U

**umount** Unmount a device

**unexpand** Convert spaces to tabs

**uniq** Uniquify files

**units** Convert units from one scale to another

**unshar** Unpack shell archive scripts

**useradd** Create new user account

**usermod** Modify user account

**users** List users currently logged in

## V

**vdir** Verbosely list directory contents ('ls -l -b')

## W

**watch** Execute or display a program periodically

**wc** Print byte, word, and line counts

**whereis** Report all known instances of a command

**which** Locate a program file in the user's path

**who** Print all usernames currently logged in

**whoami** Print the current user id and name

## X

**xargs** Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)

## Y

**yes** Print a string until interrupted

