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[cp](https://ss64.com/osx/cp.html) Copy one or more files to another location

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[date](https://ss64.com/osx/date.html) Display or change the date & time

[dc](https://ss64.com/osx/dc.html) Desk Calculator

[dd](https://ss64.com/osx/dd.html) Data Duplicator - convert and copy a file, clone disks

[declare](https://ss64.com/osx/declare.html) Declare variable & set attributes •

[defaults](https://ss64.com/osx/defaults.html) Set preferences, show hidden files

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[dscacheutil](https://ss64.com/osx/dscacheutil.html) Query or flush the Directory Service/DNS cache

[dseditgroup](https://ss64.com/osx/dseditgroup.html) Edit, create, manipulate, or delete groups

[dsenableroot](https://ss64.com/osx/dsenableroot.html) Enable root access

dsmemberutil View user and groups rights

[dscl](https://ss64.com/osx/dscl.html) Directory Service command line utility

[du](https://ss64.com/osx/du.html) Estimate file space usage

e

[echo](https://ss64.com/osx/echo.html) Display text on screen •

ed A line-oriented text editor (edlin)

[enable](https://ss64.com/osx/enable.html) Enable and disable builtin shell commands •

[env](https://ss64.com/osx/env.html) List or Set environment variables

[eval](https://ss64.com/osx/eval.html) Evaluate several commands/arguments •

[exec](https://ss64.com/osx/exec.html) Execute a command •

[exit](https://ss64.com/osx/exit.html) Exit the shell •

[execsnoop](https://ss64.com/osx/execsnoop.html) Snoop new process execution

[expand](https://ss64.com/osx/expand.html) Convert tabs to spaces

expect Programmed dialogue with interactive programs

Also see [AppleScript](https://www.apple.com/applescript/)

[export](https://ss64.com/osx/export.html) Set an environment variable •

[expr](https://ss64.com/osx/expr.html) Evaluate expressions

f

[false](https://ss64.com/osx/false.html) Do nothing, unsuccessfully

[fc](https://ss64.com/osx/fc.html) Fix command (history)

[fdisk](https://ss64.com/osx/fdisk.html) Partition table manipulator for Darwin UFS/HFS/DOS

fdesetup FileVault configuration, list FileVault users

[fg](https://ss64.com/osx/fg.html) Send job to foreground •

[file](https://ss64.com/osx/file.html) Determine file type

[find](https://ss64.com/osx/find.html) Search for files that meet a desired criteria

[fmt](https://ss64.com/osx/fmt.html) Reformat paragraph text

[fold](https://ss64.com/osx/fold.html) Wrap text to fit a specified width

[for](https://ss64.com/osx/for.html) Loop command •

[fsck](https://ss64.com/osx/fsck.html) Filesystem consistency check and repair

[fs\_usage](https://ss64.com/osx/fs_usage.html) Filesystem usage (process/pathname)

[ftp](https://ss64.com/osx/ftp.html) Internet file transfer program

[function](https://ss64.com/osx/function.html) Define Function Macros

[fuser](https://ss64.com/osx/fuser.html) List processes that have one or more files open

g

[GetFileInfo](https://ss64.com/osx/getfileinfo.html) Get attributes of HFS+ files

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[getopts](https://ss64.com/osx/getopts.html) Parse positional parameters •

[goto](https://ss64.com/osx/goto.html) Jump to label and continue execution

[grep](https://ss64.com/osx/grep.html) Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern

[groups](https://ss64.com/osx/id.html) Print group names a user is in

[gzip](https://ss64.com/osx/gzip.html) Compress or decompress files

h

[halt](https://ss64.com/osx/halt.html) Stop and restart the operating system

[hash](https://ss64.com/osx/hash.html) Refresh the cached/remembered location of commands •

[head](https://ss64.com/osx/head.html) Display the first lines of a file

[hdiutil](https://ss64.com/osx/hdiutil.html) Manipulate iso disk images

[history](https://ss64.com/osx/history.html) Command History •

[hostname](https://ss64.com/osx/hostname.html) Print or set system name

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[iconv](https://ss64.com/osx/iconv.html) Convert the character set of a file

[id](https://ss64.com/osx/id.html) Print user and group names/id's

[if](https://ss64.com/osx/if.html) Conditionally perform a command •

[ifconfig](https://ss64.com/osx/ifconfig.html) Configure network interface parameters

[iostat](https://ss64.com/osx/iostat.html) Report CPU and i/o statistics

[ipconfig](https://ss64.com/osx/ipconfig.html) View and control IP configuration state

[info](https://ss64.com/osx/info.html) Help info

[install](https://ss64.com/osx/install.html) Copy files and set attributes

[iosnoop](https://ss64.com/osx/iosnoop.html) Snoop I/O events as they occur

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[jobs](https://ss64.com/osx/jobs.html) List active jobs •

[join](https://ss64.com/osx/join.html) Join lines on a common field

k

[kextfind](https://ss64.com/osx/kextfind.html) List kernel extensions

[kextstat](https://ss64.com/osx/kextstat.html) Display status of loaded kernel extensions (kexts)

[kextunload](https://ss64.com/osx/kextunload.html) Terminate driver instances and unload kernel extensions.

[kickstart](https://ss64.com/osx/kickstart.html) Configure Apple Remote Desktop

[kill](https://ss64.com/osx/kill.html) Kill a process by specifying its PID

[killall](https://ss64.com/osx/killall.html) Kill processes by name

l

[l](https://ss64.com/osx/ls.html) List files in long format (ls -l)

[last](https://ss64.com/osx/last.html) Indicate last logins of users and ttys

[launchctl](https://ss64.com/osx/launchctl.html) Load or unload daemons/agents

[ll](https://ss64.com/osx/ls.html) List files in long format, showing invisible files (ls -la)

[less](https://ss64.com/osx/less.html) Display output one screen at a time

[let](https://ss64.com/osx/let.html) Evaluate expression •

[lipo](https://ss64.com/osx/lipo.html) Convert a universal binary

[ln](https://ss64.com/osx/ln.html) Make links between files (hard links, symbolic links)

[local](https://ss64.com/osx/local.html) Set a local (function) variable •

[locate](https://ss64.com/osx/locate.html) Find files

[logname](https://ss64.com/osx/logname.html) Print current login name

[login](https://ss64.com/osx/login.html) log into the computer

[logout](https://ss64.com/osx/logout.html) Exit a login shell (bye) •

[look](https://ss64.com/osx/look.html) Display lines beginning with a given string

[lp](https://ss64.com/osx/lp.html) Print files

[lpr](https://ss64.com/osx/lpr.html) Print files

[lprm](https://ss64.com/osx/lprm.html) Remove jobs from the print queue

[lpstat](https://ss64.com/osx/lpstat.html) Printer status information

[ls](https://ss64.com/osx/ls.html) List information about file(s)

[lsregister](https://ss64.com/osx/lsregister.html) Reset the Launch Services database

[lsbom](https://ss64.com/osx/lsbom.html) List a bill of materials file

[lsof](https://ss64.com/osx/lsof.html) List open files

m

man Help manual

[mdfind](https://ss64.com/osx/mdfind.html) Spotlight search

[mdls](https://ss64.com/osx/mdls.html) List the metadata attributes for a specified file

[mdutil](https://ss64.com/osx/mdutil.html) Manage Spotlight metadata store

[mkdir](https://ss64.com/osx/mkdir.html) Create new folder(s)

[mkfifo](https://ss64.com/osx/mkfifo.html) Make FIFOs (named pipes)

[mkfile](https://ss64.com/osx/mkfile.html) Make a file

[mktemp](https://ss64.com/osx/mktemp.html) Make a temporary file

[more](https://ss64.com/osx/more.html) Display output one screen at a time

[mount](https://ss64.com/osx/mount.html) Mount a file system

[mv](https://ss64.com/osx/mv.html) Move or rename files or directories

n

[nano](https://ss64.com/osx/nano.html) Simple text editor

[nc/netcat](https://ss64.com/osx/nc.html) Read and write data across networks

[net](https://ss64.com/osx/net.html) Manage network resources

netstat Show network status

networksetup Network and System Preferences

[nice](https://ss64.com/osx/nice.html) Set the priority of a command

[nohup](https://ss64.com/osx/nohup.html) Run a command immune to hangups

[ntfs.util](https://ss64.com/osx/ntfs-util.html) NTFS file system utility

[nvram](https://ss64.com/osx/nvram.html) Manipulate firmware variables

o

[onintr](https://ss64.com/osx/onintr.html) Control the action of a shell interrupt

[open](https://ss64.com/osx/open.html) Open a file/folder/URL/Application

[opensnoop](https://ss64.com/osx/opensnoop.html) Snoop file opens as they occur

[openssl](https://ss64.com/osx/openssl.html) OpenSSL command line

[osacompile](https://ss64.com/osx/osacompile.html) Compile Applescript

[osascript](https://ss64.com/osx/osascript.html) Execute AppleScript

p

[passwd](https://ss64.com/osx/passwd.html) Modify a user password

[paste](https://ss64.com/osx/paste.html) Merge lines of files

[pbcopy](https://ss64.com/osx/pbcopy.html) Copy data to the clipboard

[pbpaste](https://ss64.com/osx/pbpaste.html) Paste data from the Clipboard

[pgrep](https://ss64.com/osx/pkill.html) List processes by a full or partial name

[ping](https://ss64.com/osx/ping.html) Test a network connection

[pkill](https://ss64.com/osx/pkill.html) Kill processes by a full or partial name

pkgbuild Build a macOS [Installer](https://help.apple.com/systemimageutility/mac/10.12/#/sysmfd460053) component package

pkgutil Query and manipulate installed packages  
 plutil Property list utility

[pmset](https://ss64.com/osx/pmset.html) Power Management settings

[popd](https://ss64.com/osx/popd.html) Restore the previous value of the current directory •

[pr](https://ss64.com/osx/pr.html) Convert text files for printing

[printenv](https://ss64.com/osx/printenv.html) List environment variables

[printf](https://ss64.com/osx/printf.html) Format and print data •

[ps](https://ss64.com/osx/ps.html) Process status

[pushd](https://ss64.com/osx/pushd.html) Save and then change the current directory

[pwd](https://ss64.com/osx/pwd.html) Print Working Directory •

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[quota](https://ss64.com/osx/quota.html) Display disk usage and limits

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[rcp](https://ss64.com/osx/rcp.html) Copy files between machines

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reboot Stop and restart the system

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[rm](https://ss64.com/osx/rm.html) Remove files

[rmdir](https://ss64.com/osx/rmdir.html) Remove folder(s)

[rpm](http://www.rpm.org/) Remote Package Manager

[rsync](https://ss64.com/osx/rsync.html) Remote file copy - Sync file tree

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[say](https://ss64.com/osx/say.html) Convert text to audible speech

[screen](https://ss64.com/osx/screen.html) Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh

[screencapture](https://ss64.com/osx/screencapture.html) Capture screen image to file or disk

[scselect](https://ss64.com/osx/scselect.html) Switch between network locations

[scutil](https://ss64.com/osx/scutil.html) Manage system configuration parameters

[sdiff](https://ss64.com/osx/sdiff.html) Merge two files interactively

[security](https://ss64.com/osx/security.html) Administer Keychains, keys, certificates and the Security framework

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[select](https://ss64.com/osx/select.html) Generate a list of items •

[serverinfo](https://ss64.com/osx/serverinfo.html) Server information

[set](https://ss64.com/osx/set.html) Set a shell variable = value •

[setfile](https://ss64.com/osx/setfile.html) Set attributes of HFS+ files

[sharing](https://ss64.com/osx/sharing.html) Create share points for afp, ftp and smb services

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[shift](https://ss64.com/osx/shift.html) Shift positional parameters •

[shopt](https://ss64.com/osx/shopt.html) Set shell options •

[shutdown](https://ss64.com/osx/shutdown.html) Shutdown or restart macOS

[sips](https://ss64.com/osx/sips.html) Scriptable image processing system

[sleep](https://ss64.com/osx/sleep.html) Delay for a specified time

[softwareupdate](https://ss64.com/osx/softwareupdate.html) System software update tool

[sort](https://ss64.com/osx/sort.html) Sort text files

[source](https://ss64.com/osx/source.html) Execute commands from a file •

spctl Security assessment policy/Gatekeeper

[split](https://ss64.com/osx/split.html) Split a file into fixed-size pieces

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[su](https://ss64.com/osx/su.html) Substitute user identity

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[textutil](https://ss64.com/osx/textutil.html) Manipulate text files in various formats (Doc,html,rtf)

[time](https://ss64.com/osx/time.html) Measure Program Resource Use

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[top](https://ss64.com/osx/top.html) Display process information

[touch](https://ss64.com/osx/touch.html) Change file timestamps

[tput](https://ss64.com/osx/tput.html) Set terminal-dependent capabilities, color, position

[tr](https://ss64.com/osx/tr.html) Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters

[trap](https://ss64.com/osx/trap.html) Execute a command when the shell receives a signal •

[traceroute](https://ss64.com/osx/traceroute.html) Trace Route to Host

[trimforce](https://ss64.com/osx/trimforce.html) Enable TRIM commands on third-party drives

[true](https://ss64.com/osx/true.html) Do nothing, successfully

[tty](https://ss64.com/osx/tty.html) Print filename of terminal on stdin

[type](https://ss64.com/osx/type.html) Describe a command •

u

ufs.util Mount/unmount UFS file system

[ulimit](https://ss64.com/osx/ulimit.html) limit the use of system-wide resources •

[umask](https://ss64.com/osx/umask.html) Users file creation mask

[umount](https://ss64.com/osx/umount.html) Unmount a device

[unalias](https://ss64.com/osx/alias.html) Remove an alias •

[uname](https://ss64.com/osx/uname.html) Print the Darwin OS Kernel version / release / machine name

[unexpand](https://ss64.com/osx/expand.html) Convert spaces to tabs

[uniq](https://ss64.com/osx/uniq.html) Uniquify files

[units](https://ss64.com/osx/units.html) Convert units from one scale to another

[unset](https://ss64.com/osx/unset.html) Remove variable or function names •

[until](https://ss64.com/osx/while.html) Loop command •

[uptime](https://ss64.com/osx/uptime.html) Show how long system has been running

[users](https://ss64.com/osx/users.html) Print login names of users currently logged in

[until](https://ss64.com/osx/until.html) Execute commands (until error)

[uuencode](https://ss64.com/osx/uuencode.html) Encode a binary file

[uudecode](https://ss64.com/osx/uuencode.html) Decode a file created by uuencode

[uuidgen](https://ss64.com/osx/uuidgen.html) Generate a Unique ID (UUID/GUID)

uucp Unix to Unix copy

v

[vi](https://ss64.com/vi.html) Text Editor

w

[w](https://ss64.com/osx/w.html) Show who is logged on and what they are doing

[wait](https://ss64.com/osx/wait.html) Wait for a process to complete •

[wall](https://ss64.com/osx/wall.html) Write a message to users

[wc](https://ss64.com/osx/wc.html) Print byte, word, and line counts

[whatis](https://ss64.com/osx/whatis.html) Search the whatis database for complete words

[whereis](https://ss64.com/osx/whereis.html) Locate a program

[which](https://ss64.com/osx/which.html) Locate a program file in the user's path

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[write](https://ss64.com/osx/write.html) Send a message to another user

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[xargs](https://ss64.com/osx/xargs.html) Execute utility - passing arguments

[xattr](https://ss64.com/osx/xattr.html) Display and manipulate extended attributes

xcode-select --install Install the command line developer tools

[youtube-dl](https://ss64.com/osx/youtube-dl.html) Download video

[yes](https://ss64.com/osx/yes.html) Print a string until interrupted

[zip](https://ss64.com/osx/zip.html) Package and compress (archive) files.

[!!](https://ss64.com/osx/bang.html) Run the last command again

Commands marked • are bash *built-in* commands. bash is the default shell, it runs under [Darwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwin_%28operating_system%29) the open source core of macOS.  
In macOS Catalina the default shell will change to zsh and in time this page will be updated to include that.  
  
[Discussion forum](https://ss64.org/viewforum.php?id=10)  
Links to [other Sites, Books etc](https://ss64.com/links/osx.html)...

*“Mac OS X is a rock-solid system that's beautifully designed. I much prefer it to Linux” -*[*Bill Joy*](https://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.12/billjoy.html)

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