

2.4.3 Alias Facts

An alias is a shortcut stored in memory that runs a command on your Linux system.

This lesson covers the following topics:

- Create and remove aliases
- Persistent aliases

Create and Remove Aliases

The following table describes the commands that create and remove aliases:

| Use | To | Example |
|---|--|---|
| alias | Display the currently defined aliases on the system. | <pre>[rtracy@fs5 ~]\$ alias alias egrep='egrep --color=auto' alias fgrep='fgrep --color=auto' alias grep='grep --color=auto' alias l.='ls -d .* --color=auto' alias ll='ls -l --color=auto' alias ls='ls --color=auto' alias which='alias /usr/bin/which --tty-only --read-alias --show-dot --show-tilde'</pre> |
| alias [name='command'] | Create a custom alias that runs an existing command. A single alias can be defined to run multiple commands. When creating the alias, encapsulate the command(s) with quotation marks or apostrophes. | <p>alias securebackup='cp *.* /dev/st0/*.*;shred -fuvz *.*' creates an alias that copies all files in the current directory to a tape backup device and then shreds the original files.</p> <p>alias forcelogout="killall /usr/bin/Xorg" creates a shortcut that kills all Xserver processes.</p> |
| unalias [name] | Remove an alias. | <p>unalias securebackup removes the alias specified for the securebackup command.</p> <p>unalias forcelogout deletes the forcelogout alias.</p> |

Persistent Aliases

Most distributions include predefined aliases that are created at system startup and therefore, persist after a reboot. Custom alias defined from the shell prompt may not persist after a user logs out or after a reboot.

To create persistent aliases for all users do one of the following:

- Add alias commands to the **/etc/profile** file.
- Add a script file (*.sh) containing alias commands to the **/etc/profile.d/** directory.

To create persistent aliases for a single user, do one of the following:

- Add alias commads to the **~/.profile** file
- Add alias commands to the **~/.bashrc** file.