

BASH Cheat Sheet

A handy cheat sheet for essential Bash commands
<https://github.com/0b11o/bash-cheat-sheet>

Basic commands

Command	Description
pwd	Print working directory
ls	List directory contents
cd <directory>	Change directory to <directory>
touch <file>	Create an empty file
mkdir <dir>	Create a new directory
rm <file>	Remove a file
rmdir <dir>	Remove an empty directory
rm -r <dir>	Remove a directory and its contents
cp <source> <dest>	Copy files or directories
mv <source> <dest>	Move or rename files or directories

File permissions

Command	Description
chmod <permissions> <file>	Change file permissions (e.g. chmod 755 file)
chown <user>:<group> <file>	Change file ownership
ls -l	List files with detailed information
chmod -R <permissions> <dir>	Change permissions recursively for a directory
chown -R <user>:<group> <dir>	Change ownership recursively for a directory

File viewing & editing

Command	Description
cat <file>	Display the contents of a file
less <file>	View a file page by page
head <file>	View the first 10 lines of a file
tail <file>	View the last 10 lines of a file
vim <file>	Open a file in the Vim editor
vim +<line> <file>	Open a file and jump to a specific line number

Searching & finding files

Command	Description
grep <pattern> <file>	Search for a pattern in a file
find <path> -name <file>	Find a file by name
locate <file>	Locate a file by its name
updatedb	Update the database for locate
which <command>	Find the location of a command in the system path
whereis <command>	Find binary, source, and manual pages of a command

Process management

Command	Description
ps	List processes running on the system
top	Display a real-time list of running processes
kill <pid>	Kill a process by its PID
killall <process>	Kill all instances of a process
bg	Move a process to the background
fg	Bring a background process to the foreground
nice <command>	Start a command with a modified priority
renice <priority> <pid>	Change the priority of a running process
nohup <command> &	Run a command in the background and ignore hangups
pstree	Display processes in a tree-like format

Networking

Command	Description
ping <host>	Ping a host to check connectivity
curl <url>	Transfer data from or to a server
wget <url>	Download files from the web
ifconfig	Display or configure network interfaces
ip a	Display network interfaces (more modern than ifconfig)
ss	Utility to investigate sockets (faster and better than netstat)
traceroute <host>	Trace the path packets take to a destination
nslookup <domain>	Query DNS to find domain information
dig <domain>	Perform DNS queries and display the results
hostname	Show or set the system's hostname
telnet <host> <port>	Test connectivity to a specific port on a remote host
scp <file> <user>@<host>:<path>	Copy files securely between hosts via SSH
rsync <source> <destination>	Synchronize files between local and remote systems

Disk usage

Command	Description
df	Show disk space usage
du	Show disk usage of files and directories
du -sh <dir>	Show the total disk usage of a directory in human-readable format
mount	Mount a filesystem
umount <device>	Unmount a filesystem
lsblk	List information about block devices
fdisk -l	List all partitions and their details
parted -l	List partitions in a human-readable format
fsck <device>	Check and repair a filesystem
tune2fs -l <device>	View information about an ext2/ext3/ext4 filesystem

System information

Command	Description
uname -a	Display system information (kernel, OS, etc.)
hostnamectl	Get or set the system hostname
uptime	Show system uptime and load averages
who	Show who is logged in
w	Display who is logged in and their activity
last	Show the last logins
free	Display memory usage
vmstat	Report virtual memory statistics
lscpu	Display CPU architecture information
lsusb	List USB devices
lspci	List PCI devices
dmesg	Print the kernel ring buffer
lshw	Display detailed hardware configuration
top	Monitor system resources in real-time

Environment variables

Command	Description
echo \$<variable>	Print the value of an environment variable
export <variable=value>	Set an environment variable
unset <variable>	Remove an environment variable
env	Display all environment variables
printenv	Print all environment variables

File redirection & pipes

Command	Description
command > <file>	Redirect output to a file
command >> <file>	Append output to a file
command < <file>	Use a file as input to a command
command <command>	Pipe output from one command to another
command 2> <file>	Redirect error output to a file
command &> <file>	Redirect both stdout and stderr to a file

Special characters

Character	Description
*	Wildcard, matches zero or more characters
?	Matches any single character
[]	Matches any one character within the brackets
&	Run a command in the background
	Pipe the output of one command to another
;	Separate multiple commands on the same line
&&	Execute the second command only if the first succeeds
	Execute the second command only if the first fails

Useful variables

Variable	Description
\$HOME	Home directory
\$USER	Current user
\$PATH	List of directories to search for executables
\$PWD	Current working directory
\$SHELL	The path to the current shell

Other useful commands

Command	Description
alias <name>='<command>'	Create an alias for a command
unalias <name>	Remove an alias
man <command>	Show the manual page for a command
info <command>	Show detailed documentation for a command
crontab -l	List scheduled cron jobs
systemctl <command>	Control systemd services (start, stop, restart)
service <service> <action>	Manage services (start, stop, restart)
journalctl	View logs from the systemd journal