

## An A-Z Index of the **Linux** command line: **bash + utilities**.

**alias** Create an alias •  
**apropos** Search Help manual pages (man -k)  
**apt-get** Search for and install software packages  
(Debian/Ubuntu)  
**aptitude** Search for and install software packages  
(Debian/Ubuntu)  
**aspell** Spell Checker  
**awk** Find and Replace text, database sort/validate/index

b

**basename** Strip directory and suffix from filenames  
**bash** GNU Bourne-Again SHell  
**bc** Arbitrary precision calculator language  
**bg** Send to background  
**bind** Set or display readline key and function bindings •  
**break** Exit from a loop •  
**builtin** Run a shell builtin  
**bzip2** Compress or decompress named file(s)

c

**cal** Display a calendar  
**case** Conditionally perform a command  
**cat** Concatenate and print (display) the content of files  
**cd** Change Directory  
**cfdisk** Partition table manipulator for Linux  
**chattr** Change file attributes on a Linux file system  
**chgrp** Change group ownership  
**chmod** Change access permissions  
**chown** Change file owner and group  
**chroot** Run a command with a different root directory  
**chkconfig** System services (runlevel)  
**cksum** Print CRC checksum and byte counts  
**clear** Clear terminal screen  
**cmp** Compare two files  
**comm** Compare two sorted files line by line  
**command** Run a command - ignoring shell functions •  
**continue** Resume the next iteration of a loop •  
**cp** Copy one or more files to another location  
**cron** Daemon to execute scheduled commands  
**crontab** Schedule a command to run at a later time  
**csplit** Split a file into context-determined pieces  
**curl** Transfer data from or to a server  
**cut** Divide a file into several parts

d

**date** Display or change the date & time  
**dc** Desk Calculator

`dd` Convert and copy a file, write disk headers, boot records  
`ddrescue` Data recovery tool  
`declare` Declare variables and give them attributes •  
`df` Display free disk space  
`diff` Display the differences between two files  
`diff3` Show differences among three files  
`dig` DNS lookup  
`dir` Briefly list directory contents  
`dircolors` Colour setup for `ls`  
`dirname` Convert a full pathname to just a path  
`dirs` Display list of remembered directories  
`dmesg` Print kernel & driver messages  
`du` Estimate file space usage

e

`echo` Display message on screen •  
`egrep` Search file(s) for lines that match an extended expression

`eject` Eject removable media  
`enable` Enable and disable builtin shell commands •  
`env` Environment variables  
`ethtool` Ethernet card settings  
`eval` Evaluate several commands/arguments  
`exec` Execute a command  
`exit` Exit the shell  
`expect` Automate arbitrary applications accessed over a terminal

`expand` Convert tabs to spaces  
`export` Set an environment variable  
`expr` Evaluate expressions

f

`false` Do nothing, unsuccessfully  
`fdformat` Low-level format a floppy disk  
`fdisk` Partition table manipulator for Linux  
`fg` Send job to foreground  
`fgrep` Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string  
`file` Determine file type  
`find` Search for files that meet a desired criteria  
`fmt` Reformat paragraph text  
`fold` Wrap text to fit a specified width.  
`for` Expand words, and execute *commands*  
`format` Format disks or tapes  
`free` Display memory usage  
`fsck` File system consistency check and repair  
`ftp` File Transfer Protocol  
`function` Define Function Macros  
`fuser` Identify/kill the process that is accessing a file

g

`gawk` Find and Replace text within file(s)  
`getopts` Parse positional parameters  
`grep` Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern  
`groupadd` Add a user security group  
`groupdel` Delete a group  
`groupmod` Modify a group  
`groups` Print group names a user is in  
`gzip` Compress or decompress named file(s)

h

`hash` Remember the full pathname of a name argument  
`head` Output the first part of file(s)  
`help` Display help for a built-in command •  
`history` Command History  
`hostname` Print or set system name  
`htop` Interactive process viewer

i

`iconv` Convert the character set of a file  
`id` Print user and group id's  
`if` Conditionally perform a command  
`ifconfig` Configure a network interface  
`ifdown` Stop a network interface  
`ifup` Start a network interface up  
`import` Capture an X server screen and save the image to file  
`install` Copy files and set attributes  
`iostat` Report CPU and i/o statistics  
`ip` Routing, devices and tunnels

j

`jobs` List active jobs •  
`join` Join lines on a common field

k

`kill` Kill a process by specifying its PID  
`killall` Kill processes by name

l

`less` Display output one screen at a time  
`let` Perform arithmetic on shell variables •  
`link` Create a link to a file  
`ln` Create a symbolic link to a file  
`local` Create a function variable •  
`locate` Find files  
`logname` Print current login name  
`logout` Exit a login shell •  
`look` Display lines beginning with a given string  
`lpc` Line printer control program  
`lpr` Off line print  
`lprint` Print a file  
`lprind` Abort a print job

lprintq	List the print queue
lprm	Remove jobs from the print queue
lsattr	List file attributes on a Linux second extended file

system

lsblk	List block devices
ls	List information about file(s)
lsof	List open files
lspci	List all PCI devices

m

make	Recompile a group of programs
man	Help manual
mkdir	Create new folder(s)
mkfifo	Make FIFOs (named pipes)
mkfile	Make a file
mkisofs	Create an hybrid ISO9660/JOLIET/HFS filesystem
mknod	Make block or character special files
mktemp	Make a temporary file
more	Display output one screen at a time
most	Browse or page through a text file
mount	Mount a file system
mttools	Manipulate MS-DOS files
mtr	Network diagnostics (traceroute/ping)
mv	Move or rename files or directories
mmv	Mass Move and rename (files)

n

nc	Netcat, read and write data across networks
netstat	Networking connections/stats
nft	nftables for packet filtering and classification
nice	Set the priority of a command or job
nl	Number lines and write files
nohup	Run a command immune to hangups
notify-send	Send desktop notifications
nslookup	Query Internet name servers interactively

o

open	Open a file in its default application
op	Operator access

p

passwd	Modify a user password
paste	Merge lines of files
pathchk	Check file name portability
Perf	Performance analysis tools for Linux
ping	Test a network connection
pgrep	List processes by name
pkill	Kill processes by name
popd	Restore the previous value of the current directory
pr	Prepare files for printing
printcap	Printer capability database

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printenv Print environment variables
printf   Format and print data •
ps       Process status
pushd    Save and then change the current directory
pv       Monitor the progress of data through a pipe
pwd      Print Working Directory
q
quota    Display disk usage and limits
quotacheck Scan a file system for disk usage
r
ram       ram disk device
rar       Archive files with compression
rcp       Copy files between two machines
read      Read a line from standard input •
readarray Read from stdin into an array variable •
readonly Mark variables/functions as readonly
reboot    Reboot the system
rename    Rename files
renice    Alter priority of running processes
remsync   Synchronize remote files via email
return    Exit a shell function
rev       Reverse lines of a file
rm        Remove files
rmdir     Remove folder(s)
rsync     Remote file copy (Synchronize file trees)
s
screen    Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh
scp       Secure copy (remote file copy)
sdiff     Merge two files interactively
sed       Stream Editor
select    Accept keyboard input
seq       Print numeric sequences
set       Manipulate shell variables and functions
sftp     Secure File Transfer Program
shift     Shift positional parameters
shopt     Shell Options
shutdown Shutdown or restart linux
sleep     Delay for a specified time
slocate   Find files
sort      Sort text files
source    Run commands from a file '.'
split     Split a file into fixed-size pieces
ss        Socket Statistics
ssh       Secure Shell client (remote login program)
stat      Display file or file system status
strace    Trace system calls and signals
su        Substitute user identity

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<code>sudo</code>	Execute a command as another user
<code>sum</code>	Print a checksum for a file
<code>suspend</code>	Suspend execution of this shell •
<code>sync</code>	Synchronize data on disk with memory

t

<code>tail</code>	Output the last part of file
<code>tar</code>	Store, list or extract files in an archive
<code>tee</code>	Redirect output to multiple files
<code>test</code>	Evaluate a conditional expression
<code>time</code>	Measure Program running time
<code>timeout</code>	Run a command with a time limit
<code>times</code>	User and system times
<code>touch</code>	Change file timestamps
<code>top</code>	List processes running on the system
<code>tput</code>	Set terminal-dependent capabilities, color, position
<code>traceroute</code>	Trace Route to Host
<code>trap</code>	Execute a command when the shell receives a signal •
<code>tr</code>	Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
<code>true</code>	Do nothing, successfully
<code>tsort</code>	Topological sort
<code>tty</code>	Print filename of terminal on stdin
<code>type</code>	Describe a command •

u

<code>ulimit</code>	Limit user resources •
<code>umask</code>	Users file creation mask
<code>umount</code>	Unmount a device
<code>unalias</code>	Remove an alias •
<code>uname</code>	Print system information
<code>unexpand</code>	Convert spaces to tabs
<code>uniq</code>	Uniquify files
<code>units</code>	Convert units from one scale to another
<code>unrar</code>	Extract files from a rar archive
<code>unset</code>	Remove variable or function names
<code>unshar</code>	Unpack shell archive scripts
<code>until</code>	Execute commands (until error)
<code>uptime</code>	Show uptime
<code>useradd</code>	Create new user account
<code>userdel</code>	Delete a user account
<code>usermod</code>	Modify user account
<code>users</code>	List users currently logged in
<code>uuencode</code>	Encode a binary file
<code>uudecode</code>	Decode a file created by uuencode

v

<code>v</code>	Verbosely list directory contents ( <code>`ls -l -b'</code> )
<code>vdir</code>	Verbosely list directory contents ( <code>`ls -l -b'</code> )
<code>vi</code>	Text Editor
<code>vmstat</code>	Report virtual memory statistics

w

w Show who is logged on and what they are doing  
wait Wait for a process to complete •  
watch Execute/display a program periodically  
wc Print byte, word, and line counts  
whereis Search the user's \$path, man pages and source files

for a program

which Search the user's \$path for a program file  
while Execute commands  
who Print all usernames currently logged in  
whoami Print the current user id and name (`id -un')  
wget Retrieve web pages or files via HTTP, HTTPS or FTP  
write Send a message to another user

x

xargs Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)  
xdg-open Open a file or URL in the user's preferred  
application.  
xz Compress or decompress .xz and .lzma files  
yes Print a string until interrupted  
zip Package and compress (archive) files.  
• Run a command script in the current shell  
!! Run the last command again  
### Comment / Remark

Commands marked • are bash *built-ins*