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An A-Z Index of the Apple macOS command line (OS X)

```
afconvert  Audio File Convert
afinfo     Audio File Info
afplay     Audio File Play
airport    Manage Apple AirPort
alias      Create an alias •
alloc      List used and free memory
apropos    Search the whatis database for strings
asr        Apple Software Restore
atsutil    Font registration system utility
awk        Find and Replace text within file(s)
b
basename   Convert a full pathname to just a filename
bash       Bourne-Again SHell
bg         Send to background •
bind       Set or display readline key and function bindings •
bless      Set volume bootability and startup disk options
break      Exit from a For, While, Until or Select loop •
builtin    Execute a shell builtin •
bzip2      Compress or decompress files
c
caffeinate Prevent the system from sleeping
cal        Display a calendar
calendar   Reminder Service
caller     Return the context of a subroutine call •
cancel     Cancel print jobs
case       Conditionally perform a command •
cat        Concatenate and print (display) the content of files
cd         Change Directory •
chflags    Change a file or folder's flags
chgrp      Change group ownership
chmod      Change access permissions
chown      Change file owner and group
chroot     Run a command with a different root directory
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 (not a function) •
complete   Edit a command completion [word/pattern/list] •
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 date/time
csplit     Split a file into context-determined pieces
csrutil    Configure System Integrity Protection (SIP)
cupsfilter Convert a file to another format using cups filters
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, clone disks
declare    Declare variable & set attributes •
```

```
    defaults   Set preferences, show hidden files
    df         Display free disk space
    diff       Display the differences between two files
    diff3      Show differences among three files
    dig        DNS lookup
    dirname    Convert a full pathname to just a path
    dirs       Display list of remembered directories •
    diskutil   Disk utilities - Format, Verify, Repair
    disown     Unbind a job from the current login session •
    ditto      Copy files and folders
    dot_clean  Remove dot-underscore files
    drutil     Interact with CD/DVD burners
    dscacheutil   Query or flush the Directory Service/DNS cache
    dseditgroup   Edit, create, manipulate, or delete groups
    dsenableroot  Enable root access
    dsmemberutil  View user and groups rights
    dscl       Directory Service command line utility
    du         Estimate file space usage
 e
    echo       Display text on screen •
    ed         A line-oriented text editor (edlin)
    enable     Enable and disable builtin shell commands •
    env        List or Set environment variables
    eval       Evaluate several commands/arguments •
    exec       Execute a command •
    exit       Exit the shell •
    execsnoop  Snoop new process execution
    expand     Convert tabs to spaces
    expect     Programmed dialogue with interactive programs
               Also see AppleScript
    export     Set an environment variable •
    expr       Evaluate expressions
 f
    false      Do nothing, unsuccessfully
    fc         Fix command (history)
    fdisk      Partition table manipulator for Darwin UFS/HFS/DOS
    fdesetup   FileVault configuration, list FileVault users
    fg         Send job to foreground •
    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        Loop command •
    fsck       Filesystem consistency check and repair
    fs_usage   Filesystem usage (process/pathname)
    ftp        Internet file transfer program
    function   Define Function Macros
    fuser      List processes that have one or more files open
 g
    GetFileInfo Get attributes of HFS+ files
    getopt     Parse positional parameters
    getopts    Parse positional parameters •
    goto       Jump to label and continue execution
    grep       Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern
    groups     Print group names a user is in
    gzip       Compress or decompress files
 h
    halt       Stop and restart the operating system
    hash       Refresh the cached/remembered location of commands •
    head       Display the first lines of a file
```

hdiutil   Manipulate iso disk images
history   Command History •
hostname   Print or set system name
i
iconv   Convert the character set of a file
id   Print user and group names/id's
if   Conditionally perform a command •
ifconfig   Configure network interface parameters
iostat   Report CPU and i/o statistics
ipconfig   View and control IP configuration state
info   Help info
install   Copy files and set attributes
iosnoop   Snoop I/O events as they occur
j
jobs   List active jobs •
join   Join lines on a common field
k
kextfind   List kernel extensions
kextstat   Display status of loaded kernel extensions (kexts)
kextunload Terminate driver instances and unload kernel extensions.
kickstart Configure Apple Remote Desktop
kill   Kill a process by specifying its PID
killall   Kill processes by name
l
l   List files in long format (ls -l)
last   Indicate last logins of users and ttys
launchctl Load or unload daemons/agents
ll   List files in long format, showing invisible files (ls -la)
less   Display output one screen at a time
let   Evaluate expression •
lipo   Convert a universal binary
ln   Make links between files (hard links, symbolic links)
local   Set a local (function) variable •
locate   Find files
logname   Print current login name
login   log into the computer
logout   Exit a login shell (bye) •
look   Display lines beginning with a given string
lp   Print files
lpr   Print files
lprm   Remove jobs from the print queue
lpstat   Printer status information
ls   List information about file(s)
lsregister Reset the Launch Services database
lsbom   List a bill of materials file
lsof   List open files
m
man   Help manual
mdfind   Spotlight search
mdutil   Manage Spotlight metadata store
mkdir   Create new folder(s)
mkfifo   Make FIFOs (named pipes)
mkfile   Make a file
mktemp   Make a temporary file
more   Display output one screen at a time
mount   Mount a file system
mv   Move or rename files or directories
n
nano   Simple text editor
nc/netcat Read and write data across networks

```
net        Manage network resources
netstat    Show network status
networksetup Network and System Preferences
nice       Set the priority of a command
nohup      Run a command immune to hangups
ntfs.util  NTFS file system utility
nvram      Manipulate  firmware variables
o
onintr     Control the action of a shell interrupt
open       Open a file/folder/URL/Application
opensnoop  Snoop file opens as they occur
openssl    OpenSSL command line
osacompile Compile Applescript
osascript  Execute AppleScript
p
passwd     Modify a user password
paste      Merge lines of files
pbcopy     Copy data to the clipboard
pbpaste    Paste data from the Clipboard
pgrep      List processes by a full or partial name
ping       Test a network connection
pkill      Kill processes by a full or partial name
pkgbuild   Build a macOS Installer component package
pkgutil    Query and manipulate installed packages
plutil     Property list utility
pmset      Power Management settings
popd       Restore the previous value of the current directory •
pr         Convert text files for printing
printenv   List environment variables
printf     Format and print data •
ps         Process status
pushd      Save and then change the current directory
pwd        Print Working Directory •
q
quota      Display disk usage and limits
r
rcp        Copy files between machines
read       Read one line from standard input •
readonly   Mark a variable or function as read-only •
reboot     Stop and restart the system
ReportCrash Enable/Disable crash reporting
return     Exit a function •
rev        Reverse lines of a file
rm         Remove files
rmdir      Remove folder(s)
rpm        Remote Package Manager
rsync      Remote file copy - Sync file tree
s
say        Convert text to audible speech
screen     Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh
screencapture Capture screen image to file or disk
scselect   Switch between network locations
scutil     Manage system configuration parameters
sdiff      Merge two files interactively
security   Administer Keychains, keys, certificates and the Security framework
sed        Stream Editor
select     Generate a list of items •
serverinfo Server information
set        Set a shell variable = value •
setfile    Set attributes of HFS+ files
```

sharing	Create share points for afp, ftp and smb services
shasum	Print or Check SHA Checksums
shift	Shift positional parameters •
shopt	Set shell options •
shutdown	Shutdown or restart macOS
sips	Scriptable image processing system
sleep	Delay for a specified time
softwareupdate	System software update tool
sort	Sort text files
source	Execute commands from a file •
spctl	Security assessment policy/Gatekeeper
split	Split a file into fixed-size pieces
sqlite3	SQL database (download history)
srm	Securely remove files or directories
stat	Display the status of a file
stop	Stop a job or process
su	Substitute user identity
sudo	Execute a command as another user
sum	Print a checksum for a file
suspend	Suspend execution of this shell •
sw_vers	Print macOS operating system version
sysctl	Get or set kernel state
system_profiler	Report system configuration
systemsetup	Computer and display system settings

t

tail	Output the last part of files
tar	Tape ARchiver
tccutil	Manage the privacy database
tcpdump	Dump traffic on a network
tee	Redirect output to multiple files
test	Condition evaluation •
textutil	Manipulate text files in various formats (Doc,html,rtf)
time	Measure Program Resource Use
times	Print shell & shell process times •
tmutil	Time Machine utility
top	Display process information
touch	Change file timestamps
tput	Set terminal-dependent capabilities, color, position
tr	Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
trap	Execute a command when the shell receives a signal •
traceroute	Trace Route to Host
trimforce	Enable TRIM commands on third-party drives
true	Do nothing, successfully
tty	Print filename of terminal on stdin
type	Describe a command •

u

ufs.util	Mount/unmount UFS file system
ulimit	limit the use of system-wide resources •
umask	Users file creation mask
umount	Unmount a device
unalias	Remove an alias •
uname	Print system information
unexpand	Convert spaces to tabs
uniq	Uniquify files
units	Convert units from one scale to another
unset	Remove variable or function names •
until	Loop command •
uptime	Show how long system has been running
users	Print login names of users currently logged in
until	Execute commands (until error)

```
  uuencode   Encode a binary file
  uudecode   Decode a file created by uuencode
  uuidgen    Generate a Unique ID (UUID/GUID)
  uucp       Unix to Unix copy
v
  vi         Text Editor
w
  w          Show who is logged on and what they are doing
  wait       Wait for a process to complete •
  wall       Write a message to users
  wc         Print byte, word, and line counts
  whatis     Search the whatis database for complete words
  whereis    Locate a program
  which      Locate a program file in the user's path
  while      Loop command •
  who        Print all usernames currently logged on
  whoami     Print the current user id and name (`id -un')
  write      Send a message to another user
x
  xargs      Execute utility - passing arguments
  xattr      Display and manipulate extended attributes
  xcode-select --install  Install the command line developer tools
 youtube-dl Download video
  yes        Print a string until interrupted
  zip        Package and compress (archive) files.
  !!         Run the last command again
```

Commands marked • are bash *built-in* commands. bash is the default shell, it runs under Darwin the open source core of macOS.

Discussion forum
Links to other Sites, Books etc...

"Mac OS X is a rock-solid system that's beautifully designed. I much prefer it to Linux" - Bill Joy