Unix / Linux - Useful Commands

This quick guide lists commands, including a syntax and a brief description. For more detail, use −

```
$man command
```

Files and Directories

These commands allow you to create directories and handle files.

> Given below is the list of commands in Files and Directories.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**cat** Displays File Contents
2	**cd** Changes Directory to dirname
3	**chgrp** Changes file group
4	**chmod** Changes permissions
5	**cp** Copies source file into destination
6	**file** Determines file type
7	**find** Finds files
8	**grep** Searches files for regular expressions
9	**head** Displays first few lines of a file
10	**ln** Creates softlink on oldname
11	**ls**

	Displays information about file type
12	**mkdir** Creates a new directory dirname
13	**more** Displays data in paginated form
14	**mv** Moves (Renames) an oldname to newname
15	**pwd** Prints current working directory
16	**rm** Removes (Deletes) filename
17	**rmdir** Deletes an existing directory provided it is empty
18	**tail** Prints last few lines in a file
19	**touch** Updates access and modification time of a file

Manipulating data

The contents of files can be compared and altered with the following commands.

Given below is the list of commands in Manipulating data.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**awk** Pattern scanning and processing language
2	**cmp** Compares the contents of two files
3	**comm** Compares sorted data
4	**cut** Cuts out selected fields of each line of a file
5	**diff** Differential file comparator
6	**expand** Expands tabs to spaces
7	**join** Joins files on some common field
8	**perl** Data manipulation language
9	**sed** Stream text editor
10	**sort** Sorts file data
11	**split**

	Splits file into smaller files
12	**tr** Translates characters
13	**uniq** Reports repeated lines in a file
14	**wc** Counts words, lines, and characters
15	**vi** Opens vi text editor
16	**vim** Opens vim text editor
17	**fmt** Simple text formatter
18	**spell** Checks text for spelling error
19	**ispell** Checks text for spelling error
20	**emacs** GNU project Emacs
21	**ex, edit** Line editor
22	**emacs**

GNU project Emacs

Compressed Files

Files may be compressed to save space. Compressed files can be created and examined.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**compress** Compresses files
2	**gunzip** Helps uncompress gzipped files
3	**gzip** GNU alternative compression method
4	**uncompress** Helps uncompress files
5	**unzip** List, test and extract compressed files in a ZIP archive
6	**zcat** Cat a compressed file
7	**zcmp** Compares compressed files
8	**zdiff** Compares compressed files
9	**zmore** File perusal filter for crt viewing of compressed text

Getting Information

Various Unix manuals and documentation are available on-line. The following Shell commands give information −

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**apropos** Locates commands by keyword lookup
2	**info** Displays command information pages online
2	**man** Displays manual pages online
3	**whatis** Searches the whatis database for complete words
4	**yelp** GNOME help viewer

Network Communication

These following commands are used to send and receive files from a local Unix hosts to the remote host around the world.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**ftp** File transfer program
2	**rcp** Remote file copy
3	**rlogin** Remote login to a Unix host
4	**rsh** Remote shell
5	**tftp** Trivial file transfer program
6	**telnet** Makes terminal connection to another host
7	**ssh** Secures shell terminal or command connection
8	**scp** Secures shell remote file copy
9	**sftp** Secures shell file transfer program

Some of these commands may be restricted at your computer for security reasons.

Messages between Users

The Unix systems support on-screen messages to other users and world-wide electronic mail −

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**evolution** GUI mail handling tool on Linux
2	**mail** Simple send or read mail program
3	**mesg** Permits or denies messages
4	**parcel** Sends files to another user
5	**pine** Vdu-based mail utility
6	**talk** Talks to another user
7	**write** Writes message to another user

Programming Utilities

The following programming tools and languages are available based on what you have installed on your Unix.

Given below is the list of tools and languages in Programming Utilities.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**dbx** Sun debugger
2	**gdb** GNU debugger
3	**make** Maintains program groups and compile programs
4	**nm** Prints program's name list
5	**size** Prints program's sizes
6	**strip** Removes symbol table and relocation bits
7	**cb** C program beautifier
8	**cc** ANSI C compiler for Suns SPARC systems
9	**ctrace** C program debugger
10	**gcc** GNU ANSI C Compiler
11	**indent**

	Indent and format C program source
12	**bc** Interactive arithmetic language processor
13	**gcl** GNU Common Lisp
14	**perl** General purpose language
15	**php** Web page embedded language
16	**py** Python language interpreter
17	**asp** Web page embedded language
18	**CC** C++ compiler for Suns SPARC systems
19	**g++** GNU C++ Compiler
20	**javac** JAVA compiler
21	**appletvieweir** JAVA applet viewer
22	**netbeans**

	Java integrated development environment on Linux	
23	**sqlplus** Runs the Oracle SQL interpreter	
24	**sqlldr** Runs the Oracle SQL data loader	
25	**mysql** Runs the mysql SQL interpreter	

Misc Commands

These commands list or alter information about the system −

> Given below is the list of Misc Commands in Unix.

Sr.No.	Command & Description
1	**chfn** Changes your finger information
2	**chgrp** Changes the group ownership of a file
3	**chown** Changes owner
4	**date** Prints the date
5	**determin** Automatically finds terminal type
6	**du** Prints amount of disk usage
7	**echo** Echo arguments to the standard options
8	**exit** Quits the system
9	**finger** Prints information about logged-in users
10	**groupadd** Creates a user group
11	**groups**

	Show group memberships
12	**homequota** Shows quota and file usage
13	**iostat** Reports I/O statistics
14	**kill** Sends a signal to a process
15	**last** Shows last logins of users
16	**logout** Logs off Unix
17	**lun** Lists user names or login ID
18	**netstat** Shows network status
19	**passwd** Changes user password
20	**passwd** Changes your login password
21	**printenv** Displays value of a shell variable
22	**ps**

	Displays the status of current processes	
23	**ps** Prints process status statistics	
24	**quota -v** Displays disk usage and limits	
25	**reset** Resets terminal mode	
26	**script** Keeps script of terminal session	
27	**script** Saves the output of a command or process	
28	**setenv** Sets environment variables	
30	**stty** Sets terminal options	
31	**time** Helps time a command	
32	**top** Displays all system processes	
33	**tset** Sets terminal mode	
34	**tty**	

	Prints current terminal name
35	**umask** Show the permissions that are given to view files by default
36	**uname** Displays name of the current system
37	**uptime** Gets the system up time
38	**useradd** Creates a user account
39	**users** Prints names of logged in users
40	**vmstat** Reports virtual memory statistics
41	**w** Shows what logged in users are doing
42	**who** Lists logged in users