Top 50 Basic Commands in Linux

Command: ls

Full Form: List Segments

Definition: This command is used to list files and directories within the current working directory.

Example: ls-l-

This will list the files and directories along with their permissions, size, owner, group, and date and time of the last modification.

Command: pwd

Full Form: Print Working Directory

Definition: It shows the full pathname of the current working directory.

Example: pwd –

Executing this command will output the full path to the current directory.

Command: cd

Full Form: Change Directory

Definition: This command is used to change the current working directory.

Example: cd /home/user/Documents

This will change the current directory to the Documents directory.

Command: mkdir

Full Form: Make Directory

Definition: This command is used to create new directories.

Example: mkdir new_folder

This will create a new directory called "new_folder" in the current directory.

Command: rm

Full Form: Remove

Definition: This command is used to remove files or directories.

Example: rm myfile.txt

This will remove the file named "myfile.txt" in the current directory.

Command: touch

Full Form: Touch (No abbreviation)

Definition: This command is used to create new empty files.

Example: touch newfile.txt

This will create a new empty file named "newfile.txt".

Command: cp

Full Form: Copy

Definition: This command is used to copy files or directories from one location to another.

Example: cp sourcefile.txt destinationfolder/-

This will copy the file "sourcefile.txt" to the "destinationfolder".

Command: mv

Full Form: Move

Definition: This command is used to move or rename files or directories.

Example: mv oldname.txt newname.txt

This will rename the file "oldname.txt" to "newname.txt".

Command: cat

Full Form: Concatenate

Definition: This command is used to display the content of files, concatenate files and redirect output in terminal or files.

Example: cat file.txt

This will display the content of "file.txt".

Command: less

Full Form: Less (No abbreviation)

Definition: This command is used for viewing files instead of opening the file. This is especially useful when dealing with large files.

Example: less largefile.txt

This will let you view "largefile.txt" in a way that allows you to scroll through it with ease.

Command: head

Full Form: Head (No abbreviation)

Definition: This command outputs the first part of files.

Example: head file.txt

This will output the first 10 lines of "file.txt".

Command: tail

Full Form: Tail (No abbreviation)

Definition: This command outputs the last part of files.

Example: tail file.txt

This will output the last 10 lines of "file.txt".

Command: grep

Full Form: Global Regular Expression Print

Definition: This command searches files for lines that match a given pattern.

Example: grep 'hello' file.txt

This will search for the word 'hello' in "file.txt" and print the lines where the pattern is found.

Command: find

Full Form: Find (No abbreviation)

Definition: This command is used to search and locate the list of files and directories based on **conditions you specify for files that match the arguments.**

Example: find /home-name myfile.txt

This will find the file "myfile.txt" in the "/home" directory and its subdirectories.

Command: man

Full Form: Manual

Definition: This command is used to display the user manual of any command that we can run on the terminal.

Example: man ls

This will display the manual pages for the 'ls' command.

Command: find

Full Form: Find (No abbreviation)

Definition: This command is used to search and locate the list of files and directories based on conditions you specify for files that match the arguments.

Example: find /home-name myfile.txt

This will find the file "myfile.txt" in the "/home" directory and its subdirectories.

Command: sudo

Full Form: SuperUser Do

Definition: This command is used to perform tasks that require administrative or root permissions.

Example: sudo apt-get update

This will update the list of available packages and their versions, but it does not install or upgrade any packages

Command: df

Full Form: Disk Filesystem

Definition: This command is used to display the amount of disk space used and available on Linux file systems.

Example: df-h

This will display the disk usage in a human-readable format.

Command: du

Full Form: Disk Usage

Definition: This command is used to estimate file and directory space usage.

Example: du-sh /home/user/*

This will display the size of each file and directory in "/home/user" in a human-readable format.

Command: ps

Full Form: Process Status

Definition: This command provides information about the currently running processes, including their process identification numbers (PIDs).

Example: ps-aux

This displays all the running processes on the system.

Command: kill

Full Form: Kill (No abbreviation)

Definition: This command is used to terminate processes manually.

Example: kill 12345

This will terminate the process with PID 12345.

Command: tar

Full Form: Tape Archive

Definition: This command is used to create and extract .tar or .tar.gz archives.

Example: tar-cvf archive.tar /home/user

This will create a .tar archive of the "/home/user" directory.

Command: chmod

Full Form: Change Mode

Definition: This command is used to change the permissions of a file or a directory.

Example: chmod 755 myfile.txt

This will set read, write, execute permissions for the owner, and read and execute permissions for the group and others for "myfile.txt".

Command: chown

Full Form: Change Owner

Definition: This command is used to change the owner and group of a file or directory.

Example: chown username:groupname myfile.txt

This will change the owner and the group of the file "myfile.txt" to "username" and "groupname" respectively.

Command: ssh

Full Form: Secure Shell

Definition: This command is used to log into a remote machine and work directly on the remote machine.

Example: ssh username@remote_host

This will log you into "remote_host" as "username".

Command: wget

Full Form: World Wide Web Get

Definition: This command is a free utility that non-interactively downloads files from the Web. It supports HTTP, HTTPS, and FTP protocols, and can retrieve files through HTTP proxies.
Example: wget https://example.com/file.zip

This will download the "file.zip" from the URL to the current directory.

Command: curl

Full Form: Client URL

Definition: curl is used in command lines or scripts to transfer data. It supports a range of protocols like HTTP, HTTPS, FTP, FTPS, SCP, SFTP, etc.

Example: curl-O https://example.com/file.zip

This will download the file "file.zip" from the URL to the current directory.

Command: top

Full Form: Table of Processes

Definition: top command is used to show the Linux processes. It provides a live, real-time view of the running system.

Example: Simply type top in the terminal to get the list of processes.

Command: alias

Full Form: Alias (No abbreviation)

Definition: alias command in Linux is used to create an alias (shortcut) for another command.

Example: alias l='ls-l'

This will create an alias 'l' for 'ls-l'. Now, if you type 'l', it will execute 'ls-l'.

Command: echo

Full Form: Echo (No abbreviation)

Definition: echo command in Linux is used to display lines of text or string on standard output or a file.

Example: echo "Hello World"

This will print "Hello World" on the terminal.

Command: exit

Full Form: Exit (No abbreviation)

Definition: exit command in Linux is used to exit the shell where it is currently running. It takes one more parameter as [N] and exits the shell with a return of status N.

Example: exit-

This will simply exit the shell. If you provide an argument like exit 1, the shell will exit with a status of 1, indicating a general unspecified error