

Brief UNIX CLI Command Reference

dir	Obtains a directory listing of files in the current directory. Use ls instead.
cd	Abbreviation of change directory . Enables changing of location in UNIX directory structure. Fails if directory doesn't exist. May be moderated with .. (up one-level) and / (measure from root) symbols. Also use / to separate sub-directory from sub-sub-directory names.
mkdir	Command for make directory . Creates a new directory. Fails if directory already exists.
rm	remove command used to remove files. rm * will remove all files. Use -R to remove a directory
vncserver	Not a UNIX/LINUX command, rather a utility. Starts a graphical x-window server that you can connect to from and other computer, such as a PC running Microsoft Windows.
cp	Copies files from one location to another, or duplicates a file with different name.
gcc	gnu c compiler . Compiles and links a C program producing and executable image. Errors in the C code will prevent successful compilation.
javac	Invokes the java compiler. Once the java program is compiled (translated into machine code) it can then be run (executed).
mv	moves one or more files. Can be used to rename a directory, or to move files between directories. If used on a directory the whole directory will be moved, including all sub-directories.
ftp	file transfer protocol - a mechanism for transferring files between computer systems. Has a series of specific commands to permit this operation, such as put and get .
telnet	Extremely useful tool that enables remote CLI logins to another computer. Commands issued at the local computer are acted upon on the remote computer.
 more	Used to get text output one page at a time. Use as a modifier of commands such as cat and ls.
free	Returns information on the state of the memory in the system. This shows both physical and virtual memory, how much is available, in use and free.
df	Returns information on how much disk space is free in the system. Lists the disks in the system as part of the output.
ping	Tool to test IP (Internet Protocol) connections to other computers. Ping sends a small special packet of data to the other named computer. The other computer, upon receipt of the packet, will send it back. If this can be done it means that a valid IP connection exists. Ping 127.0.0.1 should never fail.
uptime	Displays how long the system has been up, how many users are active and system load statistics.
man	Displays the manual page for the given command. Go forwards through the pages of the manual using the space bar, reverse using the back command.
reset	Clears screen.
who -H -l	Displays details of who is logged in and from where. Use w as an abbreviation.
su	Enters superuser mode. Requires the superuser password. The superuser can do <i>anything</i> . If the superuser issues the command rm /* -fR everything in the filesystem will be deleted!
exit	Closes a terminal (telnet) session under Windows, or exits superuser mode
passwd	The UNIX password changing command. You'll probably have to give your old password first, then the new one twice.
cat	Displays the contents of a specified file.
vi	Opens for editing the contents of the specified file. Learn the vi commands first! The advantage of vi is that it's implemented under most if not all versions of UNIX/LINUX
uname	Displays the operating system version.
chmod	Changes attributes of specified files.
fdisk	Starts the FDISK utility - enables editing and manipulation of the disk partition tables in a system. WARNING FOR THE SUPERUSER THIS COMMAND CAN CLEAR THE CONTENTS OF ALL DISKS PERMANENTLY. WARNING.
chown	Changes ownership of the specified files.

NOTES: UNIX uses command line parameters to modify the behaviour of the commands. To see the options available use **-help** as a parameter, or use the **man** command. When files and directories are referred to 'wildcards' such as ***** can be used. So ***.*** refers to all files. **a*** refers to all files with names beginning with the letter a. Commands are case sensitive. Therefore **LS** and **ls** are *totally* different.