

Spoken Tutorials - Linux Assignment

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Basic Commands in Linux

- 1) Commands are actually files containing programs, often written in C. How will you find out in which directory does the file corresponding to the man command resides?
- 2) How will you find out what is the use of the ps command.

Answers:

1 -->

The man command is used to display manual pages for various commands, functions, and system calls. It invokes the system's pager to display the contents of the manual pages.

If we want to find out where the executable file corresponding to the man command resides, we can use the “which” command.

Syntax: which man

```
ashish@Ashish:~$ which man
/usr/bin/man
ashish@Ashish:~$
```

2 -->

To find out the use of ps command, we can use the following commands:

1) man ps: It will show us a detailed manual for the ps command.

```
NAME
    ps - report a snapshot of the current processes.

SYNOPSIS
    ps [options]

DESCRIPTION
    ps displays information about a selection of the active processes.  If
    you want a repetitive update of the selection and the displayed
    information, use top instead.

    This version of ps accepts several kinds of options:

    1  UNIX options, which may be grouped and must be preceded by a dash.
    2  BSD options, which may be grouped and must not be used with a dash.
    3  GNU long options, which are preceded by two dashes.

    Options of different types may be freely mixed, but conflicts can
    appear.  There are some synonymous options, which are functionally
    identical, due to the many standards and ps implementations that this
    ps is compatible with.

    Note that ps -aux is distinct from ps aux.  The POSIX and UNIX
    standards require that ps -aux print all processes owned by a user
    named x, as well as printing all processes that would be selected by
    the -a option.  If the user named x does not exist, this ps may
    interpret the command as ps aux instead and print a warning.  This
    behavior is intended to aid in transitioning old scripts and habits.
    It is fragile, subject to change, and thus should not be relied upon.

    By default, ps selects all processes with the same effective user ID
    (euid=EUID) as the current user and associated with the same terminal
    as the invoker.  It displays the process ID (pid=PID), the terminal
    associated with the process (tname=TTY), the cumulated CPU time in
    [DD-]hh:mm:ss format (time=TIME), and the executable name (ucmd=CMD).
    Output is unsorted by default.
```

2) whatis ps: It will show a single line basic description of the ps command

```
ashish@Ashish:~$ whatis ps
ps (1)                - report a snapshot of the current processes.
ashish@Ashish:~$
```

3) apropos ps: It will show all the relevant pages from the manual about the ps command

```
ashish@Ashish:~$ apropos ps
00-upstream-settings (5) - dconf configuration file
accessdb (8) - dumps the content of a man-db database in a human readable format
appstreamcli (1) - Handle AppStream metadata formats and query AppStream data
apt-transport-https (1) - APT transport for downloading via the HTTP Secure protocol (HTTPS)
backend (7) - cups backend transmission interfaces
btrfs-balance (8) - balance block groups on a btrfs filesystem
btrfs-send (8) - generate a stream of changes between two subvolume snapshots
capsh (1) - capability shell wrapper
casper-snapshot (1) - a simple script to ease persistence usage.
cgroups (7) - Linux control groups
classes.conf (5) - class configuration file for cups
client.conf (5) - client configuration file for cups (deprecated on macos)
cups (1) - a standards-based, open source printing system
cups-browsed (8) - A daemon for browsing the Bonjour broadcasts of shared, remote CUPS printers
cups-browsed.conf (5) - server configuration file for cups-browsed
cups-deviced (8) - cupsd helper programs (deprecated)
cups-driverd (8) - cupsd helper programs (deprecated)
cups-exec (8) - cupsd helper programs (deprecated)
cups-files.conf (5) - file and directory configuration file for cups
cups-lpd (8) - receive print jobs and report printer status to lpd clients (deprecated)
cups-snmp (8) - cups snmp backend (deprecated)
cups-snmp.conf (5) - snmp configuration file for cups (deprecated)
cupsaccept (8) - accept/reject jobs sent to a destination
cupsttl (8) - configure cupsd.conf options
cupsd (8) - cups scheduler
```