

Essential Linux Commands Cheat Sheet

Quick Reference for Beginners & DevOps Enthusiasts

1.User and Group Management

Commands	Descriptions	Example
useradd	Creates a new user	useradd user_name
groupadd	Creates a new group	groupadd group_name
passwd	Sets or changes a user's password	passwd user_name
su	Switches user or becomes root user	su - user_name

2.File and Directory Commands

Command	Description	Example
ls	Lists files and directories	ls -l
cd	Changes directory	cd /home
pwd	Print the current directory	pwd
mkdir	Creates a new directory	mkdir projects
touch	Creates an empty file	touch newfile.txt
rm	Removes files or directories	rm file.txt / rm -r folder
cp	Copy files or directories	cp file.txt /tmp/
mv	Moves or renames files/directories	mv file.txt newfile.txt

3.File View and Search

Command	Description	Example
cat	Displays file contents	<code>cat file.txt</code>
less/more	View the file contents page by page	<code>less file.txt</code>
head	Displays first 10 lines (default	<code>head file.txt</code>
tail	Displays last 10 lines (default)	<code>tail -f logfile.log</code>
grep	Searches for patterns in files	<code>grep "error" logfile.log</code>
find	Searches for files and directories	<code>find /home -name "*.txt"</code>

4.File Processing and Service Management

Command	Description	Example
ps	Displays running processes	<code>ps aux</code>
top	Displays real-time process stats	<code>top</code>
kill	Terminates processes by PID	<code>kill 123</code>
systemctl status	Checks the status of a service	<code>systemctl status sshd</code>
systemctl restart	Restarts a service	<code>systemctl restart apache2</code>

5.Networking

Command	Description	Example
ip a / ipconfig	Displays IP configuration	ip a
ping	Test network connectivity	ping google.com
curl	Transfers data from/to server	curl http://example.com
ssh	Connects to a remote server	ssh user@ip

6.Permissions

Command	Description	Example
chown	Changes file ownership (user/group)	chown user:group file.txt
chmod	Change file permissions	chmod 755 script.sh chmod u+rw,x,g+rx,o-r file.txt

7.Task Scheduling

Command	Description	Example
crontab -e	Edit the cron table to schedule tasks	crontab -e
crontab -l	List scheduled cron jobs	crontab -l
at	Schedule a one-time task	echo "shutdown -h now" at 10:00
atq	View pending at jobs	atq
atrm	Remove a pending at job	atrm 2

8. Bonus Commands

Command	Description	Example
whoami	Displays the current logged-in user	<code>whoami</code>
df -h	Shows disk space usage in human-readable format	<code>df -h</code>
free -h	Shows memory (RAM) usage in human-readable format	<code>free -h</code>
history	Displays previously executed commands	<code>history</code>
hostname	Displays the system's hostname	<code>hostname</code>
man	Displays manual pages for commands	<code>man ls</code>

I believe knowledge grows when it's shared. Feel free to save this for future reference or share it with your network!

What are your most-used Linux commands? Let me know in the comments below!

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