Most Used Linux Commands

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Command	Description	Example Usage
ls	List the files and directories in the current directory	ls -l List files in long format ls -a List files including hidden files ls -lh List files in long format with human-readable file sizes ls -ltr Reverse list by modification time
cd	Change the current directory to the user's home directory	cd /path/to/directory Change the current directory to a specific directory cd .. Move up one level in the directory structure cd - Change the current directory to the previous directory
mkdir	Create a new directory	mkdir directory1 Create a directory with the given name in the current directory mkdir -p /path/to/directory Create a directory along with its parent directories mkdir -m 777 directory Create a directory with the given permissions
grep	Searches for a specific pattern in a file or input	grep "pattern" file.txt Search for the pattern in a specific file grep -r "pattern" /path/to/directory Search for the pattern in all files in the given directory and its subdirectories grep -i "pattern" file.txt Search for the pattern in the output of a command
touch	Create a new empty file or update modification and access timestamps of an existing file	touch file.txt Create a new empty file with the given name touch -a file.txt Update only the access timestamp of the file touch -m file.txt Update only the modification timestamp of the file
cp	Copy files and directories	cp file.txt /path/to/destination Copy a file to a specific directory cp -r directory /path/to/destination Copy a directory to a specific directory cp -a source destination Preserve file attributes and permissions while copying
rm	Delete files and directories	rm file.txt Delete a file rm -r directory Delete a directory and its contents rm -f file.txt Delete a file without prompting for confirmation rm -i file.txt Delete a file and prompt for confirmation before deleting
mv	Move or rename files and directories	mv file.txt /path/to/destination Move a file to a specific directory mv directory /path/to/destination Move a directory to a specific directory mv file.txt newfile.txt Rename a file mv -f file.txt /path/to/destination Move a file and prompt for confirmation before overwriting
pwd	Show the current working directory	pwd Show the current working directory pwd -L Show the logical current working directory (all symbolic links resolved) pwd -P Show the logical current working directory (the path without symbolic links)
cat	Concatenate and display the contents of files	cat file1 Display the contents of file1 cat file1 file2 Display the contents of file1 file2, file1 and file2 cat file1 > newfile Redirect the contents of file1 to create a new file named newfile cat file1 >> existingfile Append the contents of file1 to an existing file named existingfile
less	View the contents of a file one screen at a time	less file1 View the contents of file1 one screen at a time less +100 file1 View the contents of file1 from line number 100 ls -l	less Display the output of ls command one screen at a time
more	View the contents of a file one screen at a time	more file1 View the contents of file1 one screen at a time more +10 file1 Start viewing the contents of file1 from line number 10 ls -l	more Display the output of ls command one screen at a time
uname	Show the kernelname of the current user	uname Show the kernelname of the current user
sudo	Execute a command as the superuser (root user)	sudo command Execute the given command as root user sudo -i Log in as the superuser (root) and execute the shell sudo -u user command Execute the command as the specified user (other than root)
find	Search for files and directories in a directory hierarchy	find directory -name "filename" Find all files with the given name in the specified directory find directory -type f -mtime +7 -delete Delete all files in the specified directory that are older than 7 days find directory -type f -empty -delete Delete all empty directories in the specified directory
du	Estimate file space usage	du -sh * Display the total size of all files and directories in the current directory du -sh directory Display the total size of all files and directories in the specified directory du -sh directory/* Display the total size of all files and directories in the specified directory
head	Output the first part of files	head file.txt Display the first 10 lines of the specified file head -n 20 file.txt Display the first 20 lines of the specified file head -c 100 file.txt Display the first 100 bytes of the specified file
tail	Displays the last part of a file	tail file.txt Display the last 10 lines of file.txt tail -n 50 file.txt Display the last 50 lines of file.txt tail -f file.txt Display the last 10 lines of file.txt and waits for new data to be appended to the file
tar	Compresses and archives files	tar -cvf archive.tar file1.txt file2.txt Create a tar archive of file1.txt and file2.txt tar -xvf archive.tar Extracts the files from the archive tar -czvf archive.tar.gz file1.txt Create a gzipped tar archive of files
chmod	Change the permissions of a file or directory	chmod 777 file.txt Give read, write and execute permissions to the owner, group and others on file.txt chmod u+x file.txt Add executable permission for the owner of file.txt chmod g+rw file.txt Give read and write permissions to the owner and read permissions to the group and others on file.txt
chown	Change the ownership of files and directories	chown user:group file Change the ownership of a file to a specific user and group chown user:group directory Change the ownership of a directory and its contents to a specific ownership chown -R user:group directory Recursively change the ownership of a directory and its contents to a specific user and group
kill	Terminate running processes	kill process_id Terminate a process with the given process ID kill -9 process_id Terminate all processes with the given process ID kill -9 process_name Terminate a process with the given process ID
ps	Display and manage running processes	ps Display a list of running processes, sorted by CPU usage ps -u username Display a list of running processes for a specific user ps -p process_id Display information about a specific process with the given process ID
top	Interactive process viewer	top Display a dynamic real-time view of running processes, sorted by CPU usage top -u username Display a list of running processes for a specific user top -p process_id Display information about a specific process with the given process ID
ping	Send ICMP ECHO_REQUEST packets to network hosts	ping hostname Send ICMP ECHO_REQUEST packets to the specified hostname or IP address ping -c 5 hostname Send 5 packets to the specified hostname or IP address ping -i 2 hostname Send packets at a specified interval (in seconds) to the specified hostname
wget	Download files from the web	wget URL Download the file at the specified URL and save it with the specified filename wget -O filename URL Download the file at the specified URL and save it with the specified filename wget -c URL Resumably download all files linked from the specified URL
history	Show a list of previously executed commands	history Show the full history of executed commands history -c Clear the history of commands history	grep command Search for command in the history
man	Display the manual page for a command	man -k keyword Search for manual pages containing the specified keyword
zip	Compress files into a zip archive	zip archive.zip file1 file2 Create a new zip archive containing file1, file2, and dir1 and its contents zip -r archive.zip dir1 Create a new zip archive containing the contents of dir1 zip -u archive.zip file1 Add file1 to an existing zip archive or update it if it already exists
unzip	Extract files from a ZIP archive	unzip archive.zip Extract all files from the archive unzip archive.zip file1 Extract a specific file from the archive unzip -l archive.zip List the contents of the archive
echo	Prints a string or value to the terminal	echo "Hello, world!" Print the string "Hello, world!" to the terminal echo $PATH Print the PATH environment variable to the terminal echo -e "line 1\nline 2" Print a string with a newline character
hostname	Display the system's hostname	hostname Display the system's hostname hostname -I Display the system's IP address hostnamectl set-hostname newhostname Set the system's hostname to "newhostname"
useradd	Create a new user account	useradd username Create a new user account with the given username useradd -m -s /bin/bash -g groupname -G group1,group2 username Create a new user account with the given username and add the user's home directory and set their default shell to /bin/bash, set their primary group to groupname, and add the user to additional groups group1 and group2
userdel	Delete a user account	userdel -r username Delete the user account with the given username and remove the user's home directory and mail spool
su	Switch to another user account	su username Switch to the specified user account su - Switch to the root user account
clear	Clear the terminal screen	clear Clear the terminal screen
export	Set environment variables	export VAR=value Set the value of the environment variable VAR to "value" export VAR Display the value of the environment variable VAR
apt	Advanced Package Tool	apt update Update the package list from the repositories apt upgrade Upgrade all installed packages to the latest versions apt install package_name Install a package from the repositories apt remove package_name Remove a package from the system apt search search_term Search for a package in the repositories
pacman	Package manager for Arch Linux	pacman -Sy Update the package database pacman -S package_name Install a package pacman -Syu Upgrade all installed packages pacman -Sc Clean up unused packages pacman -R package_name Remove a package
yum	Yellowdog Updater Modified	yum install package_name Install a package yum remove package_name Remove a package yum update Update all installed packages yum upgrade package_name Upgrade a package to the latest version
yay	Arch Linux package manager (AUR helper)	yay -S package_name Install a package from the AUR and its dependencies yay -Syu Update all packages in the system including the AUR packages yay -Ss package_name Search for a package in the AUR and repositories
uname	Print system information	uname Display the name of the current operating system uname -a Display all system information, including the kernel version uname -r Display the kernel version
file	Determine file type	file filename Display the type of the specified file file -f filename Display the type of all files in the current directory file -i filename Display the MIME type of the specified file
date	Display the current date and time	date "+%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S" Display the date and time in a specific format date '+%s' Display the number of seconds since the Unix Epoch
cal	Display a calendar for the current month	cal 2023 Display a calendar for 2023 cal -3 Display a calendar for March 2023
uptime	Display how long the system has been running, how many users are logged on, and the past 1, 5, and 15 minute	uptime -p Display the uptime in a more human-readable format
curl	Transfer data from or to a server	curl URL Download the content of the URL curl -O URL Download the URL and save it with the original name curl -L -o filename URL Download the URL to the specified file and save it with the specified name
wc	Print newline, word, and byte counts for each file	wc filename Print newline, word, and byte counts for the file wc -l filename Print the newline count for the file wc -w filename Print only the word count for the file
ip	Show/manipulate routing, network devices, interfaces and tunnels.	ip address Show IP addresses assigned to network interfaces ip link Display network interfaces ip route Show information about network interfaces
apline	Display how long the system has been running, how many users are logged on, and the past 1, 5, and 15 minute	apline -p Display the uptime in a more human-readable format
rsync	Transfer data from or to a server	rsync -avz /source/ user@remote_host:/dest/ Create an ID image of a disk rsync -avz user@remote_host:/source/ /dest/ Restore an image of a disk
ssh	Secure Shell - Connect to a remote server securely.	ssh username@remote_host Connect to a remote host as a user named "username" ssh -p 2222 username@remote_host Connect to a remote host on port 2222 ssh -L localhost:8080:remote_host:80 Create SSH tunnelling for SSH applications
sshfs	Mount a remote directory over SSH	sshfs file.txt Print the unique lines in a file sshfs -c file.txt Count the number of occurrences of each line in a file sort file.txt	sshfs Remove duplicate lines from a sorted file
sort	Sort lines of text files	sort file.txt Sort contents of file.txt in alphabetical order sort -r file.txt Sort contents of file.txt in descending order sort -n file.txt Sort contents of file.txt numerically
cryptsetup	Utility for setting up encrypted filesystems	cryptsetup luksFormat /dev/sdb1 Create an encrypted partition on /dev/sdb1 using LUKS cryptsetup luksOpen /dev/sdb1 myencryptedvolume Open the encrypted partition /dev/sdb1 and mount it as myencryptedvolume cryptsetup luksClose myencryptedvolume Close the partition named myencryptedvolume
mount	Mount a filesystem	mount /dev/sdb1 /mnt/usb Mount the filesystem on /dev/sdb1 to /mnt/usb mount -r remount,rw /mnt/usb Remount the /mnt/usb filesystem with read-write permissions mount -t nfs 192.168.1.100:/mnt/nfs /mnt/local Mount an NFS share from 192.168.1.100:/mnt/nfs to /mnt/local
umount	Unmount a filesystem	umount /mnt/usb Unmount the filesystem mounted on /mnt/usb umount -l /mnt/usb Force unmount the filesystem mounted on /mnt/usb (if it is busy) umount -a Unmount all currently mounted filesystems
fdisk	Partition table manipulator for linux	fdisk -l List all available disks and partitions fdisk /dev/sdb Interactively create a new partition table on /dev/sdb fdisk -l /dev/sdb1 List partitions on /dev/sdb1
cfdisk	Interactive disk partitioning tool	cfdisk /dev/sdb Interactively partition /dev/sdb
nano	A friendly, easy-to-use text editor	nano filename Edit the file "filename" with nano ^O/^W Save the help screen ^X/^C Exit nano and save changes
vi	A classic, powerful text editor	vi filename Edit the file "filename" with vi i Enter insert mode to begin editing the file Esc Exit insert mode and return to command mode :w Save changes to the file :q Quit vi :q! Quit vi and discard changes
nc	Network utility for reading from and writing to network connections	nc host port Connect to the specified host and port nc -l port Listen on the specified port for incoming connections nc -u host port Use UDP instead of the default TCP protocol
netstat	Print network connections, routing tables, interface statistics, etc.	netstat -a Show all TCP connections netstat -r Show routing table netstat -i Show network interfaces
tcpdump	Packet analyzer for network traffic	tcpdump -i interface Listen on the specified network interface tcpdump host ip_address Capture packets from the specified host IP address tcpdump -w Do not resolve hostnames
nmap	Network exploration tool and security scanner	nmap host Scan a single host nmap -sS -p 1-65535 host Perform a stealth SYN scan nmap -O host Enable OS detection on the target host
awk	Pattern scanning and processing language	awk '{print $1}' file Print the first and third fields of each line in a file awk -F':' '{print $1}' /etc/passwd Print the first field of each line in the /etc/passwd file using colon as the field separator
cut	Extracts sections from each line of a file	cut -f1,3 -d: file Extract the first and third fields of each line in the /etc/passwd file using colon as the delimiter cut -c1-5 file Extract the first five characters of each line in a file cut -f2- file Extract all fields from the second field to the end of each line in a file
passwd	Change user password	passwd Change the password for the current user passwd username Change the password for the specified user passwd -l username Lock the specified user's password, disabling login passwd -u username Unlock the specified user's password, enabling login
tee	Read from standard input and write to standard output and files	command	tee file.txt Write the output of "command" to both the console and the file file.txt command	tee -a file.txt Append the output of "command" to the end of the file file.txt command	tee file1 file2 Write the output of "command" to both the console and the input of "command2" command1	tee -a file1 file2	command2 Append the output of "command" to the end of the file file.txt
touch	Create an empty file or update file timestamps	touch file.txt Initialize a new txt repository in the current directory git clone [repository_url] Clone a git repository from a remote URL git add [file] Add a file to the staging area for the next commit git commit -m "[commit_message]" Commit changes to the staging area with a commit message git push [remote] [branch] Push changes to a remote repository on a specific branch git pull [remote] [branch] Pull changes from a remote repository on a specific branch git checkout [branch] Switch to a branch in the current branch
ftp	File Transfer Protocol	ftp hostname Connect to the FTP server with the specified hostname ftp -u username hostname Connect to the FTP server with the specified username and hostname ftp ftp://username@hostname Connect to the FTP server with the specified username and hostname using the FTP URL format get remote file [local file] Download a file from the FTP server to the specified local file put local-file [remote file] Upload the local file to the FTP server. If remote-file is not specified, the file is uploaded to the current directory on the remote server.
scp	Secure Copy	scp [options] source destination Copy files securely between hosts on a network scp file.txt user@192.168.0.10:/home/user/file.txt Copy the file file.txt from the local system to the remote system at IP address 192.168.0.10 and save it in the /home/user/ directory. scp user@192.168.0.10:/home/user/file.txt . Copy the file file.txt from the remote system at IP address 192.168.0.10 to the current directory (.) on the local system. scp -r /path/to/directory user@remote:/path/to/destination Copy a directory and its contents from the local directory to the remote system.
dig	DNS lookup utility	dig example.com Perform a DNS lookup for the domain name example.com dig -x IP_address Perform a reverse DNS lookup for the given IP address dig @dns.server example.com Perform a DNS lookup using the specified DNS server
telnet	Remote login client	telnet example.com Connect to the remote host example.com using the telnet protocol telnet 10.0.0.1 8080 Connect to the host with the given IP address using the telnet protocol telnet example.com port_number Connect to the specified port on the remote host example.com using the telnet protocol

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