

# Linux Command Cheat Sheet

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## File Commands

**head** - Preview the first few lines of a file

-n # of lines

**tail** - Preview the last few lines of a file

-n # of lines

**ln** - creates a 'link' to a file

Links are shortcuts to a file, creating a unique

identifier that can be called to navigate to file

rather than calling the file path

-s Create a soft link (string reference to the file)

**find** - Search for specific files by a given query

-name Search by filename

-type Search by file type i.e. .txt, .py, etc.

-size Search by file size

-mtime Search by time last modified

-perm Search by certain file permissions

-empty Finds empty files

## File Permissions

**chmod** - Designate permissions to a file and what

type of permissions they have

u, g, o, a → user/owner, group, other, all

r, w, x → read, write, execute

+, - → add/remove permissions

777 → read, write and execute given to all users

**chown** - change ownership of a file to a different

user

**umask** - resets to default permissions

022 sets owner to read write, and group and others

to read

## File Compression and Archiving

**tar** - archive a file or extract from an existing

archive

-c creates an archive

-x extract from an archive

-f name for the archive

-v sets to verbose mode

-z compress with gzip

-j compress with bzip2

**gzip** - compress files into a smaller size

-d decompress a file/files

**zip** - compress into a zip file

## Process Management

**ps** - show running processes given a query

-aux, a all running processes

-u show processes being run by a specific user

**top** - shows real-time analytics on running

processes (similar to Windows task manager)

**kill** - forcibly shutdown a process (similar to end

task in Windows task manager); needs to use

PID

**kill** - same as kill but using the process name

instead of PID

**killall** - shuts down multiple processes based on a

query

**pgrep** - list processes based on a process name

**pidof** - shows the PID of a given process

**bg** - shows what process have been stopped

currently and resumes their activity

**wait** - pauses terminal activity until a process has

finished

## System and Storage

**uname** - show system information

-all show all information

-s show kernel name

-n show domain name

-m show hardware name

**df** - show disk usage

**du** - show size of specified file or directory

**free** - show memory usage

**uptime** - show duration machine has been

running

**lscpu** - show processor information

**lspci** - show PCI devices

**lsusb** - show USB devices connected to machine

**last reboot** - shows boot history of the machine

**date** - shows date and time

**timedatectl** - change date and time on machine

**shutdown** - start a system shutdown; [hh:mm] can

be used to specify time of shutdown, or can add

*now* to start it immediately

## Networking

**ss** - more readable and faster version of netstat

**ssh** - secure shell; connection to a remote server

given valid user credentials

**scp** - secure copy protocol; securely transfer files

between remote systems

**wget** - download files from a website given the url

**curl** - send or retrieve information to and from a url

**sftp** - secure file transfer protocol

## User Management

**sudo** - refers to a super user command

- can be used alongside any command to elevate

that command's permissions, and requires a user

with the proper permissions to execute a sudo

command

- is required to execute certain commands

**finger** - shows users currently logged in and

information on them

**finger username** - shows information on specified

user

**last** - shows the login history, starting from most

recent activity

**sudo passwd -l username** - prevents a user from

logging into a system based on the password

provided

**su - username** - switch the active user to another

user account

## Nano Commands

**Ctrl + O** - Save

**Ctrl + X** - Exit nano and choose to either save or

discard changes

**Ctrl + Y** - Scroll up

**Ctrl + V** - Scroll down

**Ctrl + K** - Delete content from cursor to end of the

line

**Ctrl + U** - Undo last delete (similar to Ctrl + Y in

other applications)

**Ctrl + W** - Search for string (similar to Ctrl + F in

other applications)

**Alt + W** - Search for string and replace with a new

provided string

**Alt + K** - Repeat most recent string search

**Alt + ,** - Go to the beginning of the current line

Selected

**Alt + .** - Go to the end of the current line

Selected

**Alt + 6** - Copy text

## Installation

**sudo apt-get install, sudo apt-get install** - installs an

APT package based on a given package name

**apt search** - searches for existing packages with a

specified query

**apt list** - lists all installed APT packages

**apt show** - shows details on a given package

**sudo yum install** - installs a YUM package based on a

given package name

**yum search** - searches for existing packages with a

specified query

**yum list** - lists all installed APT packages

**yum show** - shows details on a given package

**sudo dpkg -i** - installs a package using the Debian

package manager

**dpkg -l** - lists all installed dpkg packages

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**sudo dnf install** - installs a package using the DNF

package manager based on a given package name

**sudo rpm -i** - installs a local .rpm package based on a

given package name

**sudo snap install** - installs a Snap package based on a

given package name

**sudo snap find** - searches for a specified Snap

package in the Snap store

**sudo snap list** - lists all installed Snap packages

**flatpak install** - installs a Flatpak package based on a

given package name

**flatpack search** - searches for an installed Flatpak

package based on a query

**flatpack list** - lists all installed Flatpack packages

## Shell Commands and Shortcuts

**alias** - assigns an alias to a command that can be

called instead of calling the command itself

**sleep** - set a command to execute after a given time

has passed

**history** - show all used commands

**Ctrl + C** - shuts down the currently running process

**Ctrl + Z** - pauses the currently running process

**Ctrl + W** - cuts word left of cursor

**Ctrl + U** - cuts text on current selected line left of

cursor

**Ctrl + K** - cuts text on current selected line right of

cursor

**Ctrl + Y** - paste

**Ctrl + R** - recalls last run command

**Ctrl + O** - runs last recalled command

**!!** - runs last executed command

**exit** - logout user from session

## Environment Variables

**export [variable\_name]=value** - assign value to

variable

**echo** - show variable value given a variable name

**env** - list all variables created

**printenv** - list all variable values

**unset** - deinitialize a variable