

An A-Z Index of the **Bash** command line for Linux.

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alias      Create an alias •
apropos    Search Help manual pages (man -k)
apt-get    Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)
aptitude   Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)
aspell     Spell Checker
awk        Find and Replace text, database sort/validate/index
b
basename   Strip directory and suffix from filenames
bash       GNU Bourne-Again Shell
bc         Arbitrary precision calculator language
bg         Send to background
bind       Set or display readline key and function bindings •
break      Exit from a loop •
builtin    Run a shell builtin
bzip2      Compress or decompress named file(s)
c
cal        Display a calendar
case       Conditionally perform a command
cat        Concatenate and print (display) the content of files
cd         Change Directory
cfdisk     Partition table manipulator for Linux
chgrp     Change group ownership
chmod     Change access permissions
chown     Change file owner and group
chroot     Run a command with a different root directory
chkconfig System services (runlevel)
cksum      Print CRC checksum and byte counts
clear      Clear terminal screen
cmp        Compare two files
comm       Compare two sorted files line by line
command    Run a command - ignoring shell functions •
continue   Resume the next iteration of a loop •
cp         Copy one or more files to another location
cron       Daemon to execute scheduled commands
crontab    Schedule a command to run at a later time
csplit     Split a file into context-determined pieces
curl       Transfer data from or to a server
cut        Divide a file into several parts
d
date       Display or change the date & time
dc         Desk Calculator
dd         Convert and copy a file, write disk headers, boot records
ddrescue   Data recovery tool
declare    Declare variables and give them attributes •
df         Display free disk space
diff       Display the differences between two files
diff3      Show differences among three files
dig        DNS lookup
dir        Briefly list directory contents
dircolors  Colour setup for 'ls'
dirname    Convert a full pathname to just a path
dirs       Display list of remembered directories
dmesg      Print kernel & driver messages
du         Estimate file space usage
e
echo       Display message on screen •
egrep      Search file(s) for lines that match an extended expression
eject      Eject removable media
enable     Enable and disable builtin shell commands •
env        Environment variables
ethtool    Ethernet card settings
eval       Evaluate several commands/arguments
exec       Execute a command
exit       Exit the shell
expect     Automate arbitrary applications accessed over a terminal
expand     Convert tabs to spaces
export     Set an environment variable
expr       Evaluate expressions
f
false      Do nothing, unsuccessfully
fdformat   Low-level format a floppy disk
fdisk      Partition table manipulator for Linux
fg         Send job to foreground
fgrep      Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string
file       Determine file type
find       Search for files that meet a desired criteria
fmt        Reformat paragraph text
fold       Wrap text to fit a specified width.
for        Expand words, and execute commands
format     Format disks or tapes
free       Display memory usage
fsck       File system consistency check and repair

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| | |
|-------------|---|
| ftp | File Transfer Protocol |
| function | Define Function Macros |
| fuser | Identify/kill the process that is accessing a file |
| g | |
| gawk | Find and Replace text within file(s) |
| getopts | Parse positional parameters |
| grep | Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern |
| groupadd | Add a user security group |
| groupdel | Delete a group |
| groupmod | Modify a group |
| groups | Print group names a user is in |
| gzip | Compress or decompress named file(s) |
| h | |
| hash | Remember the full pathname of a name argument |
| head | Output the first part of file(s) |
| help | Display help for a built-in command • |
| history | Command History |
| hostname | Print or set system name |
| htop | Interactive process viewer |
| i | |
| iconv | Convert the character set of a file |
| id | Print user and group id's |
| if | Conditionally perform a command |
| ifconfig | Configure a network interface |
| ifdown | Stop a network interface |
| ifup | Start a network interface up |
| import | Capture an X server screen and save the image to file |
| install | Copy files and set attributes |
| iostat | Report CPU and i/o statistics |
| ip | Routing, devices and tunnels |
| j | |
| jobs | List active jobs • |
| join | Join lines on a common field |
| k | |
| kill | Kill a process by specifying its PID |
| killall | Kill processes by name |
| l | |
| less | Display output one screen at a time |
| let | Perform arithmetic on shell variables • |
| link | Create a link to a file |
| ln | Create a symbolic link to a file |
| local | Create a function variable • |
| locate | Find files |
| logname | Print current login name |
| logout | Exit a login shell • |
| look | Display lines beginning with a given string |
| lpc | Line printer control program |
| lpr | Off line print |
| lprint | Print a file |
| lprind | Abort a print job |
| lprintq | List the print queue |
| lprm | Remove jobs from the print queue |
| lsblk | List block devices |
| ls | List information about file(s) |
| lsuf | List open files |
| m | |
| make | Recompile a group of programs |
| man | Help manual |
| mkdir | Create new folder(s) |
| mkfifo | Make FIFOs (named pipes) |
| mkisofs | Create an hybrid ISO9660/JOLIET/HFS filesystem |
| mknod | Make block or character special files |
| more | Display output one screen at a time |
| most | Browse or page through a text file |
| mount | Mount a file system |
| mttools | Manipulate MS-DOS files |
| mtr | Network diagnostics (traceroute/ping) |
| mv | Move or rename files or directories |
| mmv | Mass Move and rename (files) |
| n | |
| nc | Netcat, read and write data across networks |
| netstat | Networking information |
| nice | Set the priority of a command or job |
| nl | Number lines and write files |
| nohup | Run a command immune to hangups |
| notify-send | Send desktop notifications |
| nslookup | Query Internet name servers interactively |
| o | |
| open | Open a file in its default application |
| op | Operator access |
| p | |
| passwd | Modify a user password |
| paste | Merge lines of files |
| pathchk | Check file name portability |
| ping | Test a network connection |
| pgrep | List processes by name |
| pkill | Kill processes by name |
| popd | Restore the previous value of the current directory |
| pr | Prepare files for printing |

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printcap Printer capability database
printenv Print environment variables
printf Format and print data •
ps Process status
pushd Save and then change the current directory
pv Monitor the progress of data through a pipe
pwd Print Working Directory
q
quota Display disk usage and limits
quotacheck Scan a file system for disk usage
r
ram ram disk device
rar Archive files with compression
rcp Copy files between two machines
read Read a line from standard input •
readarray Read from stdin into an array variable •
readonly Mark variables/functions as readonly
reboot Reboot the system
rename Rename files
renice Alter priority of running processes
remsync Synchronize remote files via email
return Exit a shell function
rev Reverse lines of a file
rm Remove files
rmdir Remove folder(s)
rsync Remote file copy (Synchronize file trees)
s
screen Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh
scp Secure copy (remote file copy)
sdiff Merge two files interactively
sed Stream Editor
select Accept keyboard input
seq Print numeric sequences
set Manipulate shell variables and functions
sftp Secure File Transfer Program
shift Shift positional parameters
shopt Shell Options
shutdown Shutdown or restart linux
sleep Delay for a specified time
slocate Find files
sort Sort text files
source Run commands from a file '.'
split Split a file into fixed-size pieces
ss Socket Statistics
ssh Secure Shell client (remote login program)
stat Display file or file system status
strace Trace system calls and signals
su Substitute user identity
sudo Execute a command as another user
sum Print a checksum for a file
suspend Suspend execution of this shell •
sync Synchronize data on disk with memory
t
tail Output the last part of file
tar Store, list or extract files in an archive
tee Redirect output to multiple files
test Evaluate a conditional expression
time Measure Program running time
timeout Run a command with a time limit
times User and system times
touch Change file timestamps
top List processes running on the system
tput Set terminal-dependent capabilities, color, position
traceroute Trace Route to Host
trap Run a command when a signal is set(bourne)
tr Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
true Do nothing, successfully
tsort Topological sort
tty Print filename of terminal on stdin
type Describe a command •
u
ulimit Limit user resources •
umask Users file creation mask
umount Unmount a device
unalias Remove an alias •
uname Print system information
unexpand Convert spaces to tabs
uniq Uniquify files
units Convert units from one scale to another
unrar Extract files from a rar archive
unset Remove variable or function names
unshar Unpack shell archive scripts
until Execute commands (until error)
uptime Show uptime
useradd Create new user account
userdel Delete a user account
usermod Modify user account
users List users currently logged in
uuencode Encode a binary file

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uudecode Decode a file created by uuencode
v
v      Verbosely list directory contents ('ls -l -b')
vdir   Verbosely list directory contents ('ls -l -b')
vi      Text Editor
vmstat  Report virtual memory statistics
w
wait    Wait for a process to complete •
watch   Execute/display a program periodically
wc      Print byte, word, and line counts
whereis Search the user's $path, man pages and source files for a program
which   Search the user's $path for a program file
while   Execute commands
who     Print all usernames currently logged in
whoami  Print the current user id and name ('id -un')
wget    Retrieve web pages or files via HTTP, HTTPS or FTP
write   Send a message to another user
x
xargs   Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)
xdg-open Open a file or URL in the user's preferred application.
xz      Compress or decompress .xz and .lzma files
yes     Print a string until interrupted
zip     Package and compress (archive) files.
.       Run a command script in the current shell
!!      Run the last command again
###     Comment / Remark

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Commands marked • are bash *built-ins*

Many commands particularly the Core Utils are also available under alternate [shells](#) (C shell, Korn shell etc).

More bash commands: [Linux Command Directory](#) from O'Reilly, GNU [CoreUtils](#).

[SS64 bash discussion forum](#)

[Links to other Sites, books etc](#)