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Linux Training Academy

MENU

Linux Commands Cheat Sheet

Did you know that there are literally hundreds of Linux commands? Even on a bare-bones Linux server install there are easily over 1,000 different commands.

The interesting thing is that most people only need to use a very small subset of those commands. Below you'll find a Linux "cheat sheet" that breaks down some of the most commonly used commands by category.

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Enjoy!

1 – SYSTEM INFORMATION

```
# Display Linux system information
uname -a

# Display kernel release information
```

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" Show operating system information such as distribution name and version

cat /etc/os-release

Show how long the system has been running + load
uptime

Show system host name
hostname

Display all local IP addresses of the host.
hostname -I

Show system reboot history
last reboot

Show the current date and time
date

Show this month's calendar
cal

Display who is online
w

Who you are logged in as
whoami

2 – HARDWARE INFORMATION

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~~~~~

```
# Display CPU information
cat /proc/cpuinfo
```

```
# Display memory information
cat /proc/meminfo
```

```
# Display free and used memory ( -h for human readable, -m for MB, -g for GB.)
free -h
```

```
# Display PCI devices
lspci -tv
```

```
# Display USB devices
lsusb -tv
```

```
# Display DMI/SMBIOS (hardware info) from the BIOS
dmidecode
```

```
# Show info about disk sda
hdparm -i /dev/sda
```

```
# Perform a read speed test on disk sda
hdparm -tT /dev/sda
```

```
# Test for unreadable blocks on disk sda
badblocks -s /dev/sda
```

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# Display and manage the top processes  
top

# Interactive process viewer (top alternative)  
htop

# Display processor related statistics  
mpstat 1

# Display virtual memory statistics  
vmstat 1

# Display I/O statistics  
iostat 1

# Display the last 100 syslog messages (Use /var/log/syslog for Debian based systems.)  
tail -100 /var/log/messages

# Capture and display all packets on interface eth0  
tcpdump -i eth0

# Monitor all traffic on port 80 ( HTTP )  
tcpdump -i eth0 'port 80'

# List all open files on the system  
lsof

# List files opened by user  
lsof -u user



```
# Execute "df -h", showing periodic updates  
watch df -h
```

## 4 – USER INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT

```
# Display the user and group ids of your current user.  
id
```

```
# Display the last users who have logged onto the system.  
last
```

```
# Show who is logged into the system.  
who
```

```
# Show who is logged in and what they are doing.  
w
```

```
# Create a group named "test".  
groupadd test
```

```
# Create an account named john, with a comment of "John Smith" and create the user's home directory.  
useradd -c "John Smith" -m john
```

```
# Delete the john account.  
userdel john
```

## 5 – FILE AND DIRECTORY COMMANDS

# List all files in a long listing (detailed) format  
`ls -al`

# Display the present working directory  
`pwd`

# Create a directory  
`mkdir directory`

# Remove (delete) file  
`rm file`

# Remove the directory and its contents recursively  
`rm -r directory`

# Force removal of file without prompting for confirmation  
`rm -f file`

# Forcefully remove directory recursively  
`rm -rf directory`

# Copy file1 to file2  
`cp file1 file2`

# Copy source\_directory recursively to destination. If destination exists, copy source\_d-

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```
" mv filename to /path/to/file. If /path/to/file is an existing directory, move /path/to/file  
mv file1 file2  
  
# Create symbolic link to linkname  
ln -s /path/to/file linkname  
  
# Create an empty file or update the access and modification times of file.  
touch file  
  
# View the contents of file  
cat file  
  
# Browse through a text file  
less file  
  
# Display the first 10 lines of file  
head file  
  
# Display the last 10 lines of file  
tail file  
  
# Display the last 10 lines of file and "follow" the file as it grows.  
tail -f file
```

## 6 – PROCESS MANAGEMENT

```
# Display your currently running processes  
ps
```

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```
ps -u
```

```
# Display process information for processname
```

```
ps -ef | grep processname
```

```
# Display and manage the top processes  
top
```

```
# Interactive process viewer (top alternative)  
htop
```

```
# Kill process with process ID of pid  
kill pid
```

```
# Kill all processes named processname  
killall processname
```

```
# Start program in the background  
program &
```

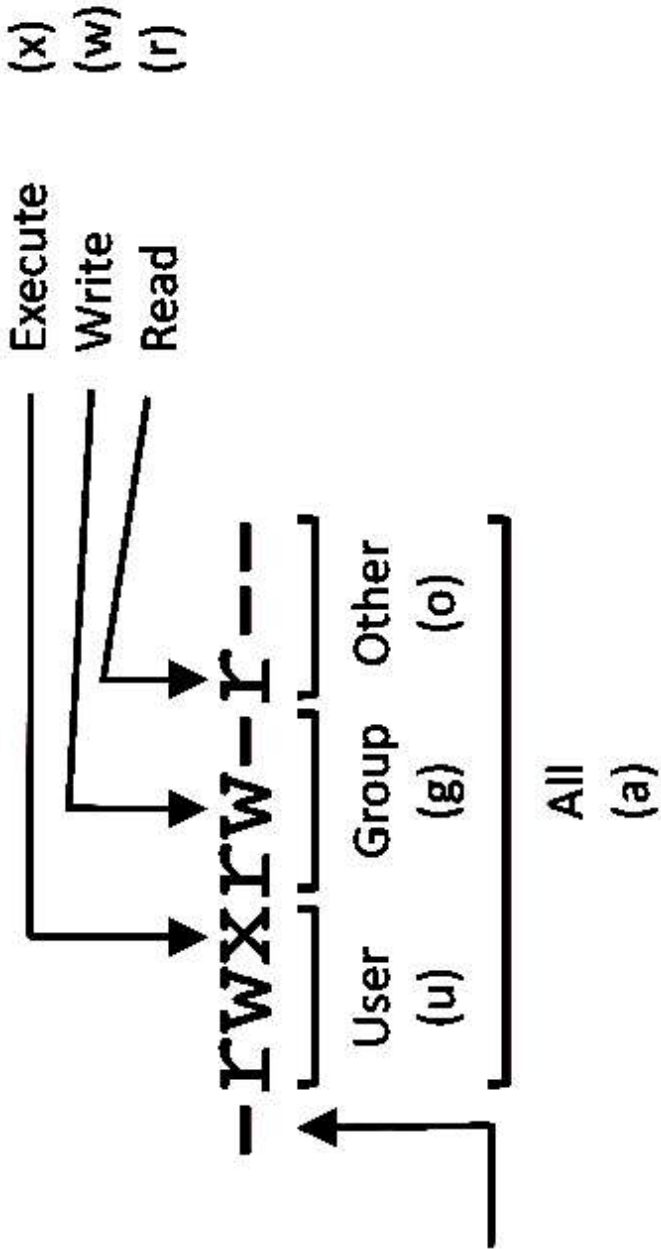
```
# Display stopped or background jobs  
bg
```

```
# Brings the most recent background job to foreground  
fg
```

```
# Brings job n to the foreground  
fg n
```



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File type:  
- → regular file  
d → directory

| PERMISSION  | EXAMPLE            |
|-------------|--------------------|
| U G W       |                    |
| rwX rwX rwX | chmod 777 filename |
| rwX rwX r-X | chmod 775 filename |
| rwX r-X r-X | chmod 755 filename |
| rw- rw- r-- | chmod 664 filename |
| rw- r-- r-- | chmod 644 filename |

# NOTE: Use 777 sparingly!

LEGEND  
U = User



r = Read  
w = write  
x = execute  
- = no access

## 8 – NETWORKING

# Display all network interfaces and IP address  
ip a

# Display eth0 address and details  
ip addr show dev eth0

# Query or control network driver and hardware settings  
ethtool eth0

# Send ICMP echo request to host  
ping host

# Display whois information for domain  
whois domain

# Display DNS information for domain  
dig domain

# Reverse lookup of IP\_ADDRESS  
dig -x IP\_ADDRESS

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```
linux commands
```

```
# Display the network address of the host name.
```

```
hostname -i
```

```
# Display all local IP addresses of the host.  
hostname -I
```

```
# Download http://domain.com/file  
wget http://domain.com/file
```

```
# Display listening tcp and udp ports and corresponding programs  
netstat -nutlp
```

## 9 – ARCHIVES (TAR FILES)

```
# Create tar named archive.tar containing directory.  
tar cf archive.tar directory
```

```
# Extract the contents from archive.tar.  
tar xf archive.tar
```

```
# Create a gzip compressed tar file name archive.tar.gz.  
tar czf archive.tar.gz directory
```

```
# Extract a gzip compressed tar file.  
tar xzf archive.tar.gz
```



```
# Extract a bzip2 compressed tar file.  
tar xjf archive.tar.bz2
```

## 10 – INSTALLING PACKAGES

```
# Search for a package by keyword.  
yum search keyword
```

```
# Install package.  
yum install package
```

```
# Display description and summary information about package.  
yum info package
```

```
# Install package from local file named package.rpm  
rpm -i package.rpm
```

```
# Remove/uninstall package.  
yum remove package
```

```
# Install software from source code.  
tar zxvf sourcecode.tar.gz  
cd sourcecode  
./configure  
make  
make install
```

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```
# Search for pattern in file  
grep pattern file
```

```
# Search recursively for pattern in directory  
grep -r pattern directory
```

```
# Find files and directories by name  
locate name
```

```
# Find files in /home/john that start with "prefix".  
find /home/john -name 'prefix*'
```

```
# Find files larger than 100MB in /home  
find /home -size +100M
```

## 12 – SSH LOGINS

```
# Connect to host as your local username.  
ssh host
```

```
# Connect to host as user  
ssh user@host
```

```
# Connect to host using port  
ssh -p port user@host
```

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```
# Secure copy file.txt to the /tmp folder on server  
scp file.txt server:/tmp
```

```
# Copy *.html files from server to the local /tmp folder.  
scp server:/var/www/*.html /tmp
```

```
# Copy all files and directories recursively from server to the current system's /tmp fo  
scp -r server:/var/www /tmp
```

```
# Synchronize /home to /backups/home  
rsync -a /home /backups/
```

```
# Synchronize files/directories between the local and remote system with compression enal  
rsync -avz /home server:/backups/
```

## 14 – DISK USAGE

```
# Show free and used space on mounted filesystems  
df -h
```

```
# Show free and used inodes on mounted filesystems  
df -i
```

```
# Display disks partitions sizes and types  
fdisk -l
```

```
# Display total disk usage off the current directory  
du -sh
```

## 15 – DIRECTORY NAVIGATION

```
# To go up one level of the directory tree. (Change into the parent directory.)  
cd ..
```

```
# Go to the $HOME directory  
cd
```

```
# Change to the /etc directory  
cd /etc
```

## 16 – SECURITY

```
# Change the current user's password.  
passwd
```

```
# Switch to the root account with root's environment. (Login shell.)  
sudo -i
```

```
# Execute your current shell as root. (Non-login shell.)  
sudo -s
```

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```
# Edit the sudoers configuration file.  
visudo
```

```
# Display the current SELinux mode.  
getenforce
```

```
# Display SELinux details such as the current SELinux mode, the configured mode, and the  
sestatus
```

```
# Change the current SELinux mode to Permissive. (Does not survive a reboot.)  
setenforce 0
```

```
# Change the current SELinux mode to Enforcing. (Does not survive a reboot.)  
setenforce 1
```

```
# Set the SELinux mode to enforcing on boot by using this setting in the /etc/selinux/con  
SELINUX=enforcing
```

```
# Set the SELinux mode to permissive on boot by using this setting in the /etc/selinux/co  
SELINUX=permissive
```

```
# Set the SELinux mode to disabled on boot by using this setting in the /etc/selinux/con  
SELINUX=disabled
```

## 17 – LOGGING AND AUDITING



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~~~~~

Display logs stored in the systemd journal.
journalctl

Display logs for a specific unit (service).
journalctl -u servicename

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