Getting Info about Commands

Brush up on how to get information about bash commands via command line.

man

Definition:

`man` is used to format or display the *manual pages*. Manual pages or *man pages* are the official documentation of all shell commands that comes along with the Linux distributions.

Syntax:

```
man [option(s)] keyword(s)
```

In order to display manual page from specific section:

```
man [section-num] [command/tool name]
```

Section Numbers:

Section No.	Section Description
1	Programs or shell commands
2	System calls (functions provided by the kernel)
3	Library calls (functions within program libraries)

4		Special files (usually found in /dev)
5		File formats and conventions eg /etc/passwd
6		Games and demonstrations
7		Miscellaneous (including macro packages and conventions), e.g., man, groff
8		System administration commands (usually only for root)
9		Device driver interfaces

Options:

Option	Syntax	Meaning
-s	`man <section num> <command>`	To specifically view a section of a man page.
-a	`man -a <command>`	To display all manual pages where a command exists.
-w	`man -w [command/tool name]`	To view the location for man pages.
-I	`man -I [command/tool name]`	To enable case-sensitivity while searching for man pages

-H	`man -H[browser-command] [command/tool name]`	To display manual pages in web browser.
-f	`man -f [command/tool name]`	To lookup for manual pages and display short descriptions as well.

Example:

To get information about the `ls` command:

```
man ls
```

```
man ls
```

To display section 3 of command `printf`:

```
man 3 printf
```

```
man 3 printf
```

To look in section 1 to find a manual page called `intro`:

```
man -s 1 intro
```

```
man -s 1 intro
```

To display all enteries of `intro` with section numbers and short descriptions:

```
man -f intro
```

```
man -f intro
```

Exit

To quit displaying the man page and return to the command prompt, press `q`.