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)

| | p= 68-44-14-14-1 |
|---|--|
| 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 | <pre>man <section num=""> <command/></section></pre> | 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[browsercommand]

[command/tool name]

To display manual
pages in web
browser.

To lookup for manual
pages and display
short descriptions as
well.

Example:

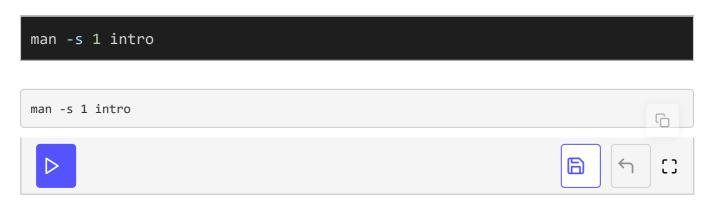
To get information about the 1s command:



To display section 3 of command printf:



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



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



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