

LPI Linux Essentials

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Exam Preparation

Training Architect
Michael Christian



Linux Academy

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems

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Linux Distributions

Distributions:

A distribution is a collection of components that form a system.

2

Linux Embedded Systems

Embedded Systems:

A combination of hardware and software for a purpose.

3

Linux in the Cloud

The Cloud:

Software and services that run and are available on the internet.

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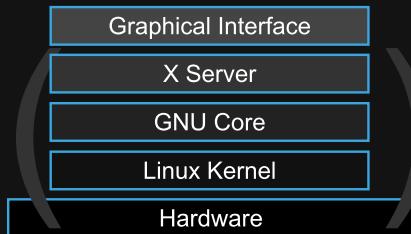
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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems

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Linux Distributions**Distributions:**

A distribution is a collection of components that form a system.

Distribution**Popular Linux Distributions:**

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- CentOS
- Ubuntu
- Fedora
- Debian
- openSUSE



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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Graphical User Interface:**

The Linux GUI is often referred to as a Desktop Environment. Common Linux desktops include Gnome, KDE, Unity, Cinnamon, MATE, and Xfce, though there are many others.

This is the environment that permits you to navigate the operating system using a mouse and folders.



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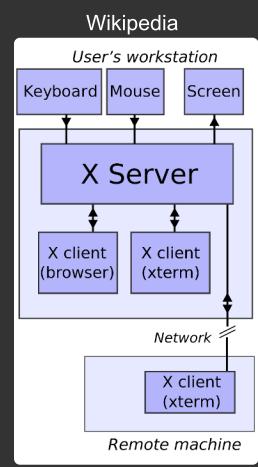
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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**X Server:**

The X Server is the display server for the X windows system; a framework for the GUI environment.

X is an architecture agnostic framework for remote graphical user interfaces and input devices. The X server itself was designed to be used over network connections.



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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**GNU Core Utilities:**

The GNU Core Utilities are the basic file, shell, and text manipulation utilities of the GNU operating system. These are the foundational **utilities** expected to exist on every operating system.

Examples include: Set and change file permission and ownership, concatenate and write files, exit status, listing directories and files.

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Linux Kernel:**

The Linux kernel is a free and open-source operating system kernel. The kernel is the framework that connects the application layer to the hardware of a computer.

Within this low-level abstraction process, system calls are made to the kernel. Hardware is incorporated into the file hierarchy through the **/dev** and **/sys** directories, and process information is mapped in **/proc**.

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Hardware:**

The hardware is the physical device being used as a **compute** resource. This device will include some form of processing capability, as well as short term and long term data storage.

The Linux Distribution is installed as an **operating system** onto the provided hardware.



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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems

Red Hat Enterprise Linux:



Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) is a **commercial** Linux distribution targeted towards the enterprise and commercial market. RHEL uses a paid license model and has

support offerings available. This makes it an attractive option for high priority business workloads.

Distro Details

Default Desktop

Gnome

Package Manager

RPM

Init Software

systemd

Release Model

Fixed

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**CentOS Linux:**

CentOS is a 100% compatible rebuild of Red Hat Enterprise Linux in compliance with Red Hat's rules regarding redistribution. CentOS is free to use, but does not come with

support. This makes CentOS an attractive distribution for users and organizations that need enterprise class stability without the cost of support or certification.

Distro Details**Default Desktop**

Gnome

Package Manager

RPM

Init Software

systemd

Release Model

Fixed

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Ubuntu Linux:**

Ubuntu is a user-friendly, highly polished desktop distribution with both community and commercial support. Ubuntu's ease of installation and exceptional polish

make it an attractive Linux distribution for beginners and those new to Linux. Ubuntu itself is based on the Debian Linux distribution, but adds extensive retooling and polish.

Distro Details**Default Desktop**

Gnome

Package Manager

DEB

Init Software

systemd

Release Model

Rolling

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Fedora Linux:**

Fedora is developed and maintained by the Fedora Project, and owned by Red Hat. Fedora is a leading edge distribution, often focusing on innovation and integrating the newest technologies, working closely with the upstream communities.

Distro Details**Default Desktop**

Gnome

Package Manager

RPM

Init Software

systemd

Release Model

Rolling

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Debian Linux:**

Debian is a completely free distribution of Linux that is often the foundation for other distributions. It is one of the oldest distributions, dating back to an

initial release in 1993. Maintained by its users, Debian supports a large number of hardware architectures, and provides an extensive number (over 40,000) of installation packages.

Distro Details**Default Desktop**

Gnome

Package Manager

DEB

Init Software

systemd

Release Model

Rolling

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**openSUSE Linux:**

openSUSE aims to provide a more stable, less experimental system than other Linux distributions. SUSE Linux Enterprise is available as a commercial offering, however.

openSUSE is community driven and supported. This sponsorship is much like the Red Hat / Fedora relationship.

Distro Details**Default Desktop**

KDE

Package Manager

RPM

Init Software

systemd

Release Model

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Linux Embedded Systems**Embedded Systems:**

A combination of hardware and software for a purpose.

Popular Embedded Linux

Linux is often used in an **embedded** fashion in everything from **consumer electronics**, industrial automation, **networking equipment**, and even medical instruments.



Android



Raspberry Pi

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AAPPLICATION
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Libraries

Libraries

High-level Abstractions

Networking

File Systems

Low-level Interfaces

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Consumer Electronics:**

Operating systems based on the Linux Kernel used in embedded systems for consumer electronics include:

- Set top boxes
- SmartTVs
- In-vehicle entertainment

Many manufacturers, when using system on chips (SoCs), will use their own proprietary version of Linux. The open source kernel forms the foundation of the operating system, however their own **internally-developed drivers** and software control the device.

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Network Equipment:**

Operating systems based on the Linux Kernel used in embedded systems for networking equipment include:

- Routers
- Switches
- Wireless access points (WAPs)
- Wireless Routers

A standard Linux installation typically has all of the software necessary to be a fully functional router! Netfilter, the framework within the Linux kernel used for firewalls, also provides the hooks and capabilities necessary to track and manage connections across any number of interfaces. Right out of the box it can provide encryption, proxy, and deep packet inspection capabilities.

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Android Operating System:**

Designed and maintained by Google, Android is a mobile operating system based on a modified version of the Linux kernel. Being primarily designed

for **touchscreen** devices, Android can be found running on smartphones and tablets, as well as watches.

Android heavily leverages Google's proprietary software: **Google Mobile Services**, typically preinstalled with Android. This includes software such as Google **Chrome**, Google **Search**, and **Gmail**.

Android has the **largest** installation base of any operating system.



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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Raspberry Pi:**

The Raspberry Pi is an inexpensive, small sized computer. Often used in the capacity of a **teaching** and **learning** device, the Raspberry Pi is a capable computer that can be

leveraged for any number of interesting use cases. Examples range from the controller for an underwater camera drone, to automated plant watering. Additionally, it makes a suitable platform for learning to program in languages like Python.

Raspbian is the Raspberry Pi Foundation's official supported operating system, and can be downloaded and installed for free. Raspbian is based on **Debian**.



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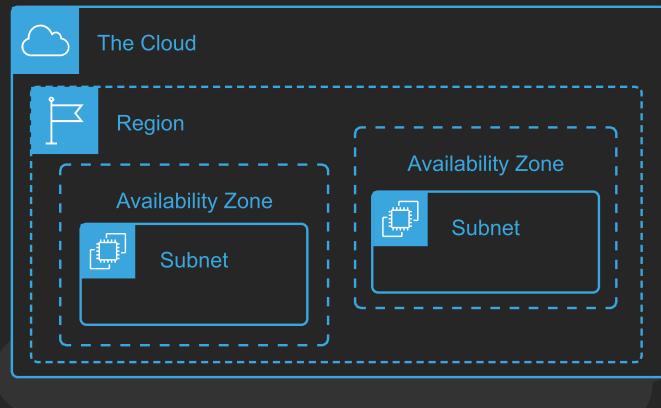
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Linux in the Cloud**The Cloud:**

Software and services that run and are available on the internet.

**What is the Cloud?**

Put simply, the cloud is a collection of data centers providing compute, application, and storage services over the internet.

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**The Cloud:**

In this example, we look at the cloud as modeled by **AWS**, or Amazon Web Services. There are many cloud providers, and each may use a different terminology for the layers of infrastructural components that comprise their respective cloud offerings.

This diagram uses basic terms such as **Regions**, **Availability Zones**, and **Subnets**. This is a high level abstraction of the complicated system of systems that enabled the cloud to function as a reliable service.

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Region:**

As the cloud is hosted in various locations around the world, each of these locations is comprised of a **Region**.

A Region in turn, is a collection of regional data centers. Typically, each region is **independent** of other regions.

Having data stored in regions around the world permits the **shortest** physical path between regional users and the data stored in the cloud, as well as fault tolerance and stability.

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Availability Zone:**

Housed within Regions are **Availability Zones**. These are the **data centers** that comprise a region. While isolated, Availability Zones are typically connected to each other through low-latency connections.

This provides more a more **local** level of fault tolerance and stability as data may be stored in multiple data center locations within the Region itself.

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1.1 Linux Evolution and Popular Operating Systems**Subnet:**

The subnet is the **local network** instance for the compute resource in the cloud.

There may be multiple computer instances, or **virtual servers**, existing within a subnet, **replicated** into additional Availability Zones in additional Regions. In this manner, the maximum amount of fault tolerance and stability may be achieved.

This is often accompanied by automation mechanisms to create and manage a self-healing infrastructure. **Linux** provides 90% of the public cloud workload.

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

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Desktop Applications

Desktop:

Open-source applications for desktop and office use.

2

Server Applications

Server:

Open-source applications that provide client services.

3

Development Languages

Development:

Open-source languages for application development.

4

Package Management Tools

Package Management:

How installation packages are tracked and managed.



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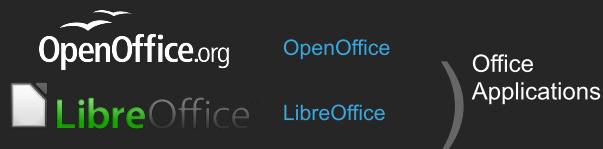
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Desktop Applications

Desktop:

Open-source applications for desktop and office use.



Web Browser: Firefox



Mail Client: Thunderbird



Image Editor/Drawing: GIMP

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications**OpenOffice:**

OpenOffice is developed and maintained by the Apache Software Foundation, and is free to use for any purpose.

OpenOffice is compatible with other major office suites, and contains the following applications:

**Writer:** Word processor software**Calc:** Spreadsheet software**Impress:** Presentation software**Draw:** Illustration and diagram software**Base:** Database software**Math:** Mathematical equation software

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

LibreOffice:

LibreOffice was developed by developers from the OpenOffice project using the **open source code** from OpenOffice.



Just like OpenOffice, LibreOffice includes applications for word processing (**Writer**), spreadsheets (**Calc**), presentations (**Impress**), vector graphics and flow charts (**Draw**), databases (**Base**), and formula editing (**Math**).

Both OpenOffice and LibreOffice are very similar.

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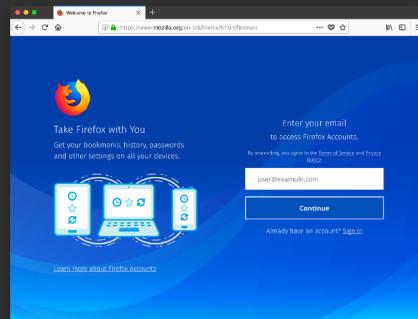
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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

Firefox:

Firefox is an open-source web browser, developed and maintained by the Mozilla Foundation. Created in 2002, Firefox is a popular alternative to proprietary browsers.



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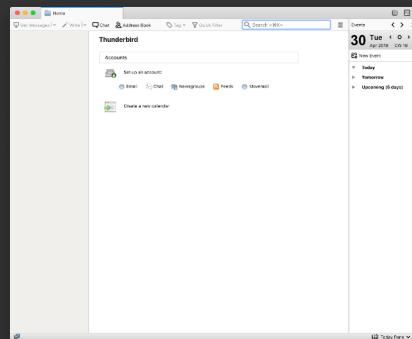
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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications**Thunderbird:**

Mozilla Thunderbird is a free and open-source email and news client, and is capable of functioning as an RSS and chat client. Developed by the Mozilla Foundation, Thunderbird is the default mail client for Ubuntu desktop systems.



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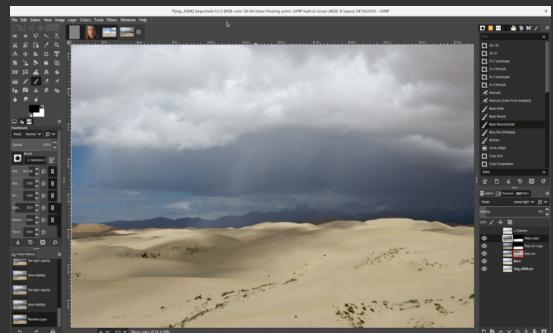
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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

Gimp:

Originally released as the General Image Manipulation Program in 1996, GIMP has evolved into a robust and complete image editing and drawing application.



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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

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Server Applications

Server:

Open-source applications that provide client services.

Web Server Applications:

Apache



NGINX



Database Server Applications:

MySQL



MariaDB



File Sharing Applications:

Samba



NFS

Private Cloud Applications:

ownCloud



Nextcloud



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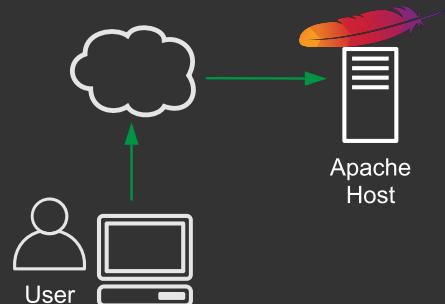
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Apache HTTP Server:

Apache is a highly-popular, free, and open-source web server service application. Apache permits web content to be served by the host, and may use compiled modules to extend the core functionality of the service.



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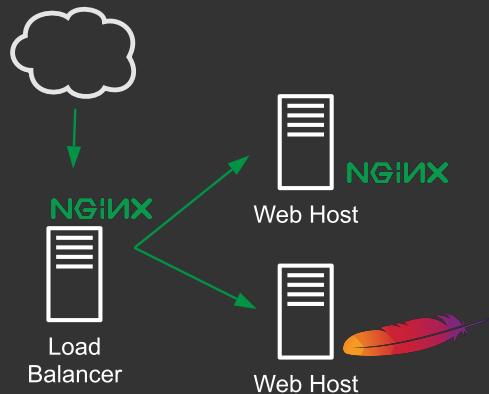
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NGINX:

NGINX is a web server that can also be used for reverse proxy, load balancing, mail proxy, and HTTP caching.



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MySQL:

MySQL is an open-source relational database management system. Together with Linux, Apache, and PHP/Perl/Python, it makes up the popular **LAMP** stack used for deploying web sites.

MySQL is used by many database-driven web applications such as WordPress and many websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications**MariaDB:**

MariaDB is a community developed **fork** of MySQL. It is the developers intent for MariaDB to maintain a high level of compatibility between MariaDB and MySQL, while remaining free and open-source software.

MariaDB claims some performance optimizations and speed improvements compared to MySQL, and is a powerful and feature-rich alternative.

Each version of MariaDB is intended to exactly match the corresponding version of MySQL, and compatibility issues are well documented.

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Samba:

Samba is open-source file sharing software for Linux that permits file sharing with Windows clients through native connectivity using the **Common Internet File System** (CIFS).

Samba performs:

- File and Print Services
- Authentication and Authorization
- Name Resolution
- Service Announcement

The most common use case for Samba is to function as a file server, or as a client to connect to a Windows file server.

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications**NFS:**

NFS, or Network File System, is a distributed file system protocol, permitting client hosts to access files and directories over the network as local storage.

Use cases for this include shared documents and files, common web application libraries, or even home directories.



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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

ownCloud:



ownCloud is client/server suite of applications for creating and using file hosting services. The functionality of ownCloud is similar to Dropbox, however your files are stored on your own connected hardware.

ownCloud supports extensions to permit online document editing, as well as calendar and contact synchronization.

While commercial support is available, the Server Edition of ownCloud is open-source and free.

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Nextcloud:



The original developer of ownCloud forked ownCloud to create Nextcloud and continues to actively develop Nextcloud with other members of the original ownCloud team.

While ownCloud core is open-source, the enterprise features aren't. Nextcloud maintains all features as open-source.

In terms of basic functionality, there are few differences between ownCloud and Nextcloud.

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Development Languages

Development:

Open-source languages for application development.

Shell



C



Java



Javascript



Perl



Python



PHP



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Shell:



A shell script is designed to be run by the **command line interpreter** using various scripting languages. Shell scripts are often used to automate strings of commands with some manner of logic applied.

Bash is the most common shell used in Linux; it typically runs as a command processor in a text-based **command line interface**. The ability to read and execute commands from a file is what gives a shell the ability to be used for automated tasks.

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C:



C is a general-purpose **imperative** programming language designed to be compiled to require minimal runtime support. C programs can be compiled for a large variety of computer platforms with few changes required to the source code.

C is one of the most **widely used** programming languages with compilers available for the majority of existing computer architectures.

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications**Java:**

Java is a class-based, **object oriented** general purpose programming language designed to be compiled and run on **any system** supporting the Java runtime via a Java Virtual Machine (JVM). Java is one of the most popular languages in use to date.

The original Java reference compilers, virtual machines, and class libraries were released under a proprietary license by Sun. However, Sun has since released much of Java as free and open-source software (FOSS) under the GNU General Public License (GPL). **OpenJDK** (Open Java Development Kit) is a free and open-source implementation of the Java programming language.

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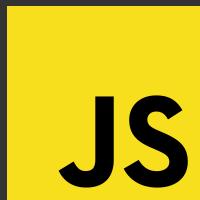
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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

Javascript:



HTML, CSS, and Javascript make up the core technologies of the World Wide Web. Originally implemented as a client side technology, JS engines are now available in many types of host software.

Most major web browsers have a dedicated JavaScript engine for JS execution, as it is a technology that enables **interactive web pages**.

Java and JavaScript are two different and distinct languages.

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Perl:



Originally developed in 1987 as a general purpose Unix scripting language, Perl has become a high-level, general-purpose programming language. Perl usually refers to Perl 5, but it may also be used to refer to Perl 6.

Perl supports both **procedural** and **object-oriented** programming, and is highly extensible with over 20,000 third-party modules available. Due to its significant flexibility, Perl is sometimes known as the "Duct Tape of the Internet".

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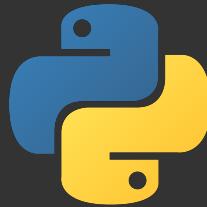
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Python:



Python is an interpreted, general-purpose programming language similar to Perl but with different principles in terms of flexibility. Perl has many ways to perform a single task, whereas Python focuses on a single method.

In terms of comparisons, Python source code is generally regarded as easier to read due to structuring requirements.

Python has extensive object-oriented programming support with clean and consistent syntax.

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

PHP:



PHP: Hypertext Processor or PHP, is a programming language originally designed for **web development**.

PHP code may be embedded into HTML, used in combination with various web frameworks and template systems, or executed on the command line.

The standard PHP interpreter is free and released under the PHP license, a license designed to encourage widespread adoption of the source code.

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications

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Package Management Tools

Package Management:

How installation packages are tracked and managed.

dpkg: Debian Package



apt-get: Advanced Package Tool



rpm: Red Hat Package Manager



yum: Yellowdog Updater, Modified



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dpkg:

dpkg, short for Debian Package, is a package archive format, containing some package metadata. DEB files are package installation files for Debian based Linux distributions.

Package files are designed to make the installation of programs easier by containing the files necessary for the installation, as well as some metadata around **dependencies**.

Debian based systems that rely on dpkg files for package installation can take advantage of APT (Advanced Package Tool) for managing packages and their dependencies.

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications**apt-get:**

Advanced Package Tool (APT) is a free and open source interface that works with core libraries to handle the installation and removal of software packages on Debian-based system. APT simplifies installation by automating the retrieval and validation of software packages as well as their dependencies.

APT permits the user to easily search for and install packages from **repositories**, directories containing software packages and an index. These repositories can be local, or accessed over a network.

Various GUI front ends are available for working with APT, such as Synaptic, or the Ubuntu Software Center.

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1.2 Major Open-Source Applications**rpm:**

While originally used by Red Hat systems, RPM is a package management system used by a wide variety of Linux distributions.

While dpkg uses .deb files, RPM uses .rpm files. And just like DEB, an RPM file is an **archive** of package installation files as well as metadata containing dependencies and installation paths.

Most RPM files are binary RPMs containing the compiled version of the software to install. However, SRPMs (**Source RPMs**) are available, containing the source code for local compilation.

And just as dpkg systems may use APT for package management, RPM-based systems may use **YUM**.

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yum:

Yum, or the Yellowdog Updater, Modified, is a free and open-source command line package management utility for **RPM-based** Linux systems. Just as APT for Debian-based systems, YUM allows for automated updates and package dependency management.

Also like APT, YUM makes use of software **repositories** that may be locally accessed or available on a network.

A rewrite of YUM named **DNF** has replaced YUM as the default package manager for Fedora systems. DNF was created to improve upon YUM in several ways: better performance, better dependency resolution, and easier integration with other applications.

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1.3 Open-Source Software and Licensing

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Open-Source Philosophy:
Open-source philosophy and design

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Licensing

Open-Source Licensing:
Open-source licensing models and types

3

FSF and OSI

FSF and OSI:
Free Software Foundation and Open Source Initiative

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1.3 Open-Source Software and Licensing

1

Philosophy

Open-Source Philosophy:
Open-source philosophy and design

The basic premise of open-source software is that the **source code** is available for anyone to freely view, use, modify, or redistribute.



Forking

Forking occurs when software developers use the source code from one project, to start an entirely **new** parallel project.

Popular Examples



A Philosophical Crossroads

Allow users to freely copy, distribute, and change the software

Permissive

No restrictions on licensing derivative work

Copyleft

Derivative work **must** use the **same license** as the original software

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Licensing**Open-Source Licensing:**

Open-source licensing models and types

Open-source licensing provides **rules** and **guidelines** for how the work may be used, permitting others to contribute without first seeking permission.

License Examples**Public Domain****Permissive****Copyleft**

CCO 1.0

BSD

GPL

least

Restrictions

most



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1.3 Open-Source Software and Licensing**CCO 1.0 Universal:**

The Creative Commons 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication is a declaration that all works are in the public domain.

Excerpt:

*The person who associated a work with this deed has **dedicated** the work to the public domain by waiving all of his or her rights to the work worldwide under copyright law, including all related and neighboring rights, to the extent allowed by law.*

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission.

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1.3 Open-Source Software and Licensing**BSD:****BSD**

BSD licenses are a segment of permissive software licenses, with minimal restrictions imposed on usage and distribution.

BSD licenses typically contain 4 or fewer of the following **clauses**:

1. Redistributions of **source code** must retain the above copyright notice, this list of conditions, and the following disclaimer.
2. Redistributions in **binary** form must reproduce the above copyright notice, this list of conditions, and the following disclaimer in the documentation and/or other materials provided with the distribution.
3. All **advertising** materials mentioning features or use of this software must display the following **acknowledgement**:
This product includes software developed by the <organization>. Neither the name of the <organization> nor the names of its contributors **may be used to endorse** or **promote** products derived from this software without specific prior written permission.
- 4.

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1.3 Open-Source Software and Licensing

GPL:



Free as in Freedom

The GPL, or GNU General Public License, is a widely-used copyleft software license.

Being a **copyleft** license, derivative work may only be distributed under the **same license terms**.

This license permits:

- commercial use
- modification
- distribution

restricts:

- sublicensing

and must:

- include the original work
- stated changes

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1.3 Open-Source Software and Licensing

3

FSF and OSI

FSF and OSI:

Free Software Foundation and
Open Source Initiative

The Open Source Initiative and the Free Software Foundation are two movements that place approvals on open-source software licenses.

Open Source Initiative

Individuals from both sides often work with each other on free, open-source projects. Both support free, modifiable software and openly-available source code.

This is a nice application, how may I obtain a copy?



FOSS vs FLOSS

Free Software Foundation

This is a nice application, but freedom is more important to me. I reject this application, and will instead support a free replacement.



The primary difference in philosophies stems from a lack of focus on the practical benefits of the software, and more on the ethics of rights restrictions regarding proprietary software.

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1.3 Open-Source Software and Licensing

FOSS versus FLOSS:

The difference between FOSS and FLOSS is largely philosophical; the practical difference is that FLOSS implies slightly more restrictions in terms of monetization. In terms of semantical differences:

FOSS: Free and Open Source Software

The word **free** here is generally regarded in the context of **price**.

FLOSS: Free/Libre/Open Source Software

The word **free** here is a reference to **freedom**, and this designation attempts to make the meaning more clear.

Thus, if you want to be neutral between free software and open source, and clear about them, the way to achieve that is to say “FLOSS,” not “FOSS.” -- Richard Stallman

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1.4 ICT Skills and Working in Linux

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Desktop Skills

Desktop Skills:

Using the Linux Desktop, config options, web usage, and privacy.

2

Getting to the CLI

Getting to the Command Line:

How to access the Linux command line interface.

3

Industry Uses

Industry Uses of Linux:

How Linux is used in virtualization and cloud computing.

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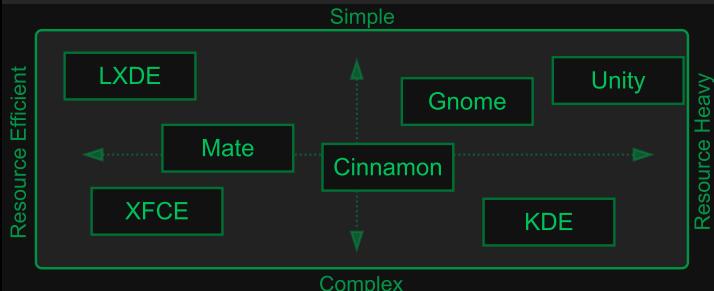
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Desktop Skills

Desktop Skills:

Using the Linux Desktop, config options, web usage, and privacy.

Popular Linux Desktop Environments



User Space and Privacy



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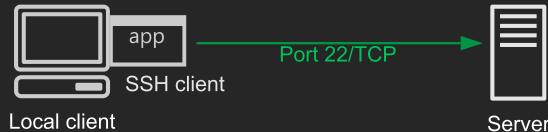
1.4 ICT Skills and Working in Linux

2

Getting to the CLI**Getting to the Command Line:**
How to access the Linux command line interface.

When using Linux as a server environment, often the only interface to the system is the **Command Line**.

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$
```

Remote Connections

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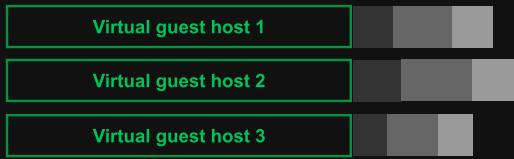
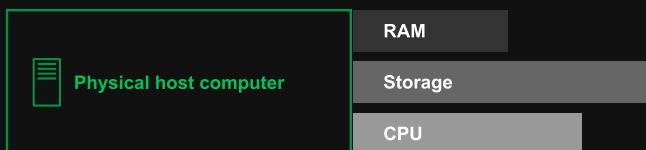
1.4 ICT Skills and Working in Linux

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Industry Uses**Industry Uses of Linux:**

How Linux is used in virtualization and cloud computing.

Virtualization and **cloud computing** have changed the shape of modern compute workloads, and **Linux** has been at the **forefront** of this digital transformation.

Virtualization

Linux in the Cloud (1.1 Review)



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2.1 Command Line Basics

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Basic Shell

Basic Shell:

How the shell interprets commands for translation and execution.

2

Command Line Syntax

Command Line Syntax:

Basic command line syntax and notation.

3

Variables

Variables:

Using variables to store values for easy reference.

4

Quoting

Quoting:

Preserving input that contains special characters or spaces.

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2.1 Command Line Basics

1

Basic Shell

Basic Shell:

How the shell interprets commands for translation and execution.

The standard Linux shell (BASH) is both a command line interpreter and a programming language.

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$
```

Terminal

Keyboard

Display

User interface

\$ command

result

\$

#0 STDIN

#1 STDOUT

#2 STDERR

Process

Interpreter

Parse input

Application

Execution



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2.1 Command Line Basics

Command Prompt:

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$
```

The command prompt, is a short text string at the beginning of the command line. Linux command prompts typically show the current **user**, the current **host**, and the correct working **directory**.

The command prompt is easily modified to show more or less information as desired. The **dollar sign** (\$) at the end of the prompt string denotes that the current user is unprivileged, and that the interface is ready to receive input.

This input is sent to the interpreter to be parsed and executed. **BASH**, or the Bourne Again Shell, is the most common interpreter, however, there are others available, some of which do not use the dollar sign.

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2.1 Command Line Basics

Commands:

`$ ls`

Commands are entered as text after the command line prompt, are parsed by the interpreter, and executed by the shell as a **process**.

Commands are entered as text into the input stream known as Standard In (**STDIN**). These commands adhere to a **syntax** as defined by the interpreter or current shell. The commands entered may be as simple as invoking a single application or utility; or as complex as **redirecting** the **output** from one utility to another, while iterating through a logical loop.

The ability to redirect output, as well as apply logic, to a large number of useful GNU utilities and applications makes the command line a powerful tool for system administration and **automation**.

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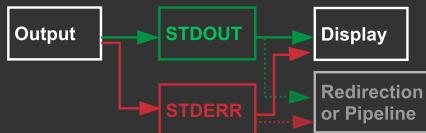
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Command Output:

```
file1    file2    file3    file4
```

The output of the entered command is displayed on the line following the command itself. Commands are sent for execution by using [ENTER].

This output will be sent to one of two streams: Standard Out (**STDOUT**), or Standard Error (**STDERR**). Both streams will print to the screen by default, however, the output may be changed with **redirection** or a **pipeline**.



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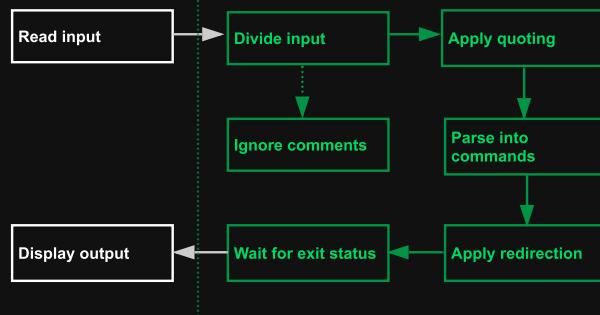
2

Command Line Syntax

Command Line Syntax:

Basic command line syntax and notation.

As the shell input is read, it follows a sequence of operations, ignoring comments (#) and divvying the input into words and operators.



Example Command Syntax

```
ls [ OPTION ]... [ FILE ]...
-a, --all
    do not ignore entries starting with .
-h, --human-readable
    with -l and -s, print sizes like 1K 234M 2G etc.
```

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3

Variables**Variables:**

Using variables to store values for easy reference.

A bash variable may contain a **number**, a **character**, or a **string** of characters. These variables do not need to be declared, nor are there data types. They are simply assigned.

Assigning a Variable

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ test_variable="This  
is a variable"  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ echo $test_variable  
This is a variable  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$
```

Bourne Shell Variables

\$HOME the current user's home directory
\$PS1 the primary prompt string
\$PATH a colon-separated list of directories where the shell looks for commands



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2.1 Command Line Basics

4

Quoting

Quoting:

Preserving input that contains special characters or spaces.

Quoting is used to **disable** special treatment of certain characters and words, as well as to prevent parameter expansion and **preserve** what is quoted.

Methods

Escape Character

A non-quoted backslash \ is the bash escape character and preserves the literal value of the **next following character**, with the single exception of *newline*.

Single Quotes

Single quotes ' preserve the literal value of **every character** contained within the quotes, including the escape character.

Double Quotes

Double quotes " preserve the literal value of **most characters** contained within the quotes, exceptions include \$ (for variables), ' (for single quoting), \ (for escaping a character).

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2.1 Command Line Basics

Shell Quoting Examples:

Escape Character

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ var="These are quotes(\""  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ echo $var  
These are quotes("")
```

Single Quotes

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ var='These are quotes()'  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ echo $var  
These are quotes()  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ var='The PS1 variable is $PS1'  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ echo $var  
The PS1 variable is $PS1
```

Double Quotes

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ var="These are quotes()"  
bash: syntax error near unexpected token `'  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ var="The PS1 variable is $PS1"  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ echo $var  
The PS1 variable is [\u@lh\W]$
```

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2.2 Getting Help

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2.2 Using the Command Line to Get Help

1

Man Pages

Man Pages:

Traditional package documentation for application usage.

2

Info Pages

Info Pages:

Additional documentation with more robust capability and detail.

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1

Man Pages**Man Pages:**

Traditional package documentation for application usage.

Manual pages are the traditional form of software documentation found on UNIX systems. They are included with the software they document.

Usage

The man page for a particular command is invoked by preceding the command with **man**.

```
man <command>
```

Sections

NAME: (Required) Program or function name(s) followed by a terse descriptions of functionality.

SYNOPSIS: A short overview of available options

DESCRIPTION: Detailed information of arguments and options.

EXAMPLES: Common usage examples.



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2.2 Getting Help

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2.2 Using the Command Line to Get Help

2

Info Pages

Info Pages:

Additional documentation with more robust capability and detail.

Info pages normally provide more **detailed** information about a command than its respective man page. Additionally, info uses a structure for **linking** pages together, and may be assembled into a larger collection.

Usage

The info page for a particular command is invoked by preceding the command with **info**.

```
info <command>
```

If no info page exists, info can pull documentation from the **man page**.

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2.3 Files and Directories

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2.3 Using Directories and Listing Files

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Files and Directories

Files and Directories:

The hierarchy of storage on the Linux operating system.

2

Hidden Files and Directories

Hidden Files and Directories:

Files and directories that are hidden from basic listing.

3

Home Directories

Home Directories:

User home directories containing the user's files and directories.

4

Absolute and Relative Paths

Absolute and Relative Paths:

The path to the unique location of a file or directory.

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2.3 Using Directories and Listing Files

1

Files and Directories

Files and Directories:

The hierarchy of storage on the Linux operating system.

The Filesystem Hierarchy Standard (FHS) defines the structure of the file systems on Linux.

The Root Filesystem

Moving Around

/	the root directory
/bin	user binaries
/boot	static boot files
/dev	device files
/etc	configuration files
/home	home directories
/lib	shared libraries
/mnt	temporary mount points
/opt	optional packages
/proc	kernel and process files
/root	root user home directory
/run	application state files
/sbin	system administration binaries
/srv	service data
/tmp	temporary files
/usr	user binaries
/var	variable data files

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Moving around:

Common commands for moving around a Linux file system:

Get current location:

`pwd`

Change directory:

`cd <NEW LOCATION>`

Go back to last location:

`cd -`

Go up one level:

`cd ..`

Go up two levels:

`cd ../../`

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2.3 Using Directories and Listing Files

1

Hidden Files and Directories**Hidden Files and Directories:**
Files and directories that are hidden from basic listing.

Files and directories in Linux may be hidden by preceding their name with a period.

Hidden Files

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls
file1 file2 file3 file4
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ touch .file5
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls
file1 file2 file3 file4
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls -a
. ... .file5 file1 file2 file3 file4
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$
```

Hidden files may be listed via **ls** using the **-a** option, to show **all** files.



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1

Home Directories**Home Directories:**

User home directories containing the user's files and directories.

A home directory is typically created for every **ordinary** user on a Linux system under **/home**.

Home Directory

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ pwd  
/home/cloud_user  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ cd  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ pwd  
/home/cloud_user  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ cd ~  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ pwd  
/home/cloud_user  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ cd $HOME  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ pwd  
/home/cloud_user
```

cd (change directory) without a specified path

~ used to represent user's home directory

\$HOME environment variable used to store home directory path



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1

Absolute and Relative Paths**Absolute and Relative Paths:**
The path to the unique location of a file or directory.The path to a file or directory location may be specified as an absolute path, starting with a `/`, or a relative path.

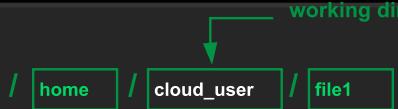
```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ pwd  
/home/cloud_user
```

Relative Path

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ cat file1  
Hello world.
```

Absolute Path

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ cat  
/home/cloud_user/file1  
Hello world.
```

**Relative path:** `file1`**Absolute path:** `/home/cloud_user/file1`

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2.4 Creating, Moving, and Deleting Files

1

Creating, Moving, Deleting

Creating, Moving, Deleting:
Creating, moving, and deleting files and directories.

2

Case Sensitivity

Case Sensitivity :
Working with a case-sensitive file system.

3

Simple Globbing

Simple Globbing:
Using partial matching to work with groups of files and directories.

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2.4 Creating, Moving, and Deleting Files

1

Creating, Moving, Deleting

Creating, Moving, Deleting:
Creating, moving, and deleting files and directories.

Working with **directories**:

Create a new directory
`mkdir <NAME>`

Copy a directory
`cp -r <SOURCE> <DESTINATION>`

Move a directory
`mv <SOURCE> <DESTINATION>`

Delete a directory
`rm -r <DIRECTORY>`

Working with **files**:

Create a new file
`touch <NAME>`

Copy a file
`cp <SOURCE> <DESTINATION>`

Move a file
`mv <FILE> <NEW LOCATION>`

Delete a file
`rm <FILE>`



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2

Case Sensitivity

Case Sensitivity :

Working with a case-sensitive file system.

Most of the common Linux file systems are case sensitive; this is something to keep in mind when creating and moving through directories and files.

Using Case Sensitivity

Lower-case and upper-case letters have different ASCII representation, thus:

`touch newfile`

and

`touch Newfile`

Will create **two different files**.

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3

Simple Globbing

Simple Globbing:

Using partial matching to work with groups of files and directories.

Globbing is primarily used to match patterns in filenames or text by using a **wildcard character** to create the pattern.

? Question mark - match any single character

* Asterisk - match any number of character(s)

[] Brackets - match character from a range

^ Caret - used to match starting character

\$ Dollar sign - used to match ending character

{ Curly brace - used to match more than one pattern

| Pipe - used for applying more than one condition

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? - Question Mark:

Used to match any single character:

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls file?  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls ????  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls ???1  
file1  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$
```

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* - Asterisk

An asterisk is used to match any number of characters:

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls file*  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls *  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls *1  
file1  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$
```

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[] - Brackets:

Brackets are used to match a character from a range.

```
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls *[1-4]  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls *[2-3]  
file2 file3  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$ ls *[:digit:]  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@ip-10-0-1-10 ~]$
```

[[:upper:]] or [A-Z] - match upper-case character

[[:lower:]] or [a-z] - match lower-case character

[[:digit:]] or [0-9] - match digits

[[:alpha:]] or [a-zA-Z] - match either case character

[[:alnum:]] or [a-zA-Z0-9] - match alphanumeric

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3.1 Archiving Files on the Command Line

1

Archiving Files and Directories

Archiving Files and Directories:
Creating archives of files and directories.

2

Archives and Compression

Archives and Compression:
Using compression to reduce storage consumption.

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3.1 Archiving Files on the Command Line

1

Archiving Files and Directories**Archiving Files and Directories:**
Creating archives of files and directories.

Archiving is the process of combining multiple files and/or directories into a single file. This is generally done as part of a backup process. The most common utility for creating and working with archives in Linux is:

tar - Tape Archive**Options**

- c create archive
- x extract archive
- r append to an archive
- t list the contents of an archive
- f read from or write to a file

Create an archive:

```
[cloud_user@... ~]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@... ~]$ tar cf archive.tar *
```

Extract an archive:

```
[cloud_user@... ~]$ tar xf archive.tar
```



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3.1 Archiving Files on the Command Line

2

Archives and Compression**Archives and Compression:**
Using compression to reduce storage consumption.

Compression is the process of reducing the amount of storage that files or archives consume. Compression is typically used during archiving to reduce the storage space needed for archives. The three most common compression algorithms used by Linux are:

gzip - the default compression used by tar via (-z), a good balance of speed and size reduction.

bzip2 - an alternative compression algorithm, typically slower than gzip due to higher compression.

zip - the algorithm used by the **zip** command, and all-in-one compression and archiving utility popular with other operating systems.



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Command Line Pipes

Command Line Pipes:

Piping output from one command into another.

2

I/O Redirection

I/O Redirection:

Redirecting output to or from a file.

3

Basic Regular Expressions

Basic Regular Expressions:

Using regular expressions for pattern matching.

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1

Command Line Pipes**Command Line Pipes:**

Piping output from one command into another.

Piping is the process of using the output of one command as the input for another. This is one of the most common and powerful tools in the command line.

| — The pipe symbol

grep — Utility that searches any given input files, selecting lines that match one or more patterns

Example:

```
[cloud_user@... ~]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4  
[cloud_user@... ~]$ ls | grep 1  
file1  
[cloud_user@... ~]$ pwd  
/home/cloud_user  
[cloud_user@... ~]$ pwd | grep cloud  
/home/cloud_user
```



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2

I/O Redirection**I/O Redirection:**

Redirecting output to or from a file.

I/O redirection may be used to feed input to a command from a file or to send the output of a command to a file.

[COMMAND] < [FILE] — Read input from a file

Example:

```
[cloud_user@... ~]$ cat file1
```

This

is a test

```
[cloud_user@... ~]$ grep test < file1
```

is a test

[COMMAND] > [FILE] — Send output to a file

Example:

```
[cloud_user@... ~]$ ls > file5
```

```
[cloud_user@... ~]$ cat file5
```

archive.tar file1 file2 file3 file4 file6

[COMMAND] >> [FILE] — Append output to a file



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Basic Regular Expressions**Basic Regular Expressions:**
Using regular expressions for pattern matching.

Regular expressions (or *regex*) are used to match patterns in text, similar to **globbing**.

Match start of line:
"^Apple"**Match end of line:**
"Apple\$"**Match start and end of line:**
"^Apple\$"**Match either string or character:**
"Apple|Ball"**Match A, followed by zero or more p's, followed by le:**
"Ap*p*le"**Match A, followed by one or more p's, followed by le:**
"Ap+le"**Match A, followed by maybe a p, followed by le:**
"Ap?le"**Match Ap, followed by a letter between p and z, followed by le:**
"Ap[p-z]le"

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3.3 Turning Commands into a Script

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Basic Shell Scripting

Basic Shell Scripting:

The essentials of creating and running a shell script.

2

Common Text Editors

Common Text Editors:

CLI applications for working with text files.

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Basic Shell Scripting**Basic Shell Scripting:**

The essentials of creating and running a shell script.

Anatomy of a Shell Script

```
#!/bin/bash  
  
# These are comments  
  
echo "Please enter your name: "  
read name  
echo -e "Hello $name!\n"
```

#!/bin/bash

This top line defines the interpreter to be used by the shell script.

Comments

Comments are not executed as part of the shell script and are used for documentation within the script itself.

[If Statements](#)[For Loops](#)

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If Statements:

```
if [ <some test> ]
then
    <commands>
fi
```

! [expression]	The expression is false.
-n [string]	The length of the string is greater than zero.
-z [string]	The length of the string is zero (empty).
string1 = string2	string1 is equal to string2.
string1 != string2	string1 is not equal to string2.
integer1 -eq integer2	integer1 is equal to integer2.
integer1 -gt integer2	integer1 is greater than integer2.
integer1 -lt integer2	integer1 is less than integer2.
-d [file]	The file exists and is a directory.
-e [file]	The file exists.
-r [file]	The file exists, and the read permission is granted.
-s [file]	The file exists, and its size is greater than zero.
-w [file]	The file exists, and the write permission is granted.
-x [file]	The file exists, and the execute permission is granted.

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For Loops:

```
for <variable> in <list>;  
    do <command(s)>;  
done
```

Examples:

```
for i in 1 2 3; do echo $i; done  
1  
2  
3
```

```
for i in $(ls); do echo $i; done  
file1  
file2  
file3  
file5  
file5
```

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2

Common Text Editors**Common Text Editors:**

CLI applications for working with text files.

vim**Moving Around:**`gg` - Go to the first line of the file`G` - Go to the last line of the file`10G` - Go to the 10th line of the file**Inserting Text:**`i` - Insert at cursor`I` - Insert at start of line`o` - Append line under cursor**Exiting:**`:w` - Write file`:q` - Quit vim`:wq` - Write and quit**nano****Exiting:**`CTRL + X` - Exit, will prompt to save**Saving:**`CTRL + o` - Exit, will prompt to save

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4.1 Choosing an OS

1

OS Differences

OS Differences:

Differences between Microsoft Windows, macOS, and Linux.

2

Distribution Lifecycle

Distribution Lifecycle:

Distribution lifecycle management and release models.

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4.1 Choosing an OS

1

OS Differences

OS Differences:

Differences between Microsoft Windows, macOS, and Linux.

Comparison



Linux



macOS



Microsoft
Windows

Open Source	Yes	No	No
Purchase Price	Free*	Free*	Varies
Supported Hardware	Excellent	Proprietary	Good
Shell Interpreter	Bash	Bash	PowerShell
GUI	Multiple	macOS	Windows

* Enterprise licensing and support available

* Only available on proprietary hardware

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4.1 Choosing an OS

2

Distribution Lifecycle

Distribution Lifecycle:

Distribution lifecycle management and release models.

Release Models

Stability

Cutting Edge

Standard Distribution Release

Also known as a point release (or *stable release*), a standard distribution release is made available after a development period. During this development period, all software is **updated to a version** and then **frozen** and tested to verify that all software versions work well together. Updates are released to address important bugs and security concerns.

Rolling Release

The distribution is always kept up to date using **small** and **frequent updates** to the core of the OS. New versions of software are added as they arrive.



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4.2 Computer Hardware

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4.2 Computer Hardware

1

Hardware

Hardware:

The physical components used for computing.

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4.2 Computer Hardware

1

Hardware

Hardware:

The physical components used for computing.

Computing Hardware

Drivers



Central Processing Unit (CPU)

Processes computer functions and performs calculations



Random Access Memory (RAM)

High-performance, **volatile** storage



Secondary Storage (HDD/SSD/DVD)

Persistent storage for data not currently in use



Network Interface Card (NIC)

Permits **connections** to a network



Input Devices (Mouse/Keyboard)

Send data **into** the computer via human interaction



Output Devices (Monitor)

Send information **from** the computer to the user

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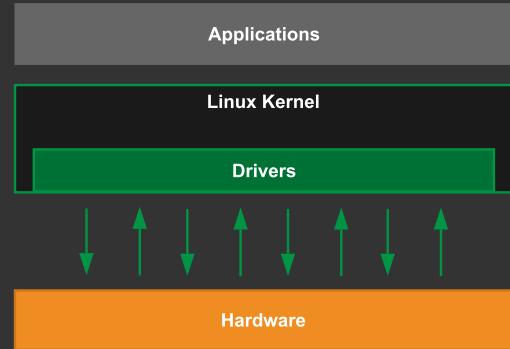
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4.2 Computer Hardware**Drivers:**

Hardware drivers reside in the running kernel (or are loaded as a module) and enable the operating system to use the hardware.



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4.3 Where Data Is Stored

1

Programs and Configuration**Programs and Configuration:**
Common locations for system and configuration data.

2

Processes**Processes:**
Data used by running processes.

3

System Messaging**System Messaging:**
Viewing and accessing system messaging.

4

Logging**Logging:**
Common locations for system and application log data.

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4.3 Where Data Is Stored

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Programs and Configuration**Programs and Configuration:** Common locations for system and configuration data.**System Configuration****System Boot Configuration:** `/boot`

Contains boot loader configuration files and parameters, Linux kernel, and initial RAM disk.

Partition Mount Points: `/etc/fstab`

Contains a list of partitions to mount automatically and where they mount in the filesystem.

User Attributes: `/etc/passwd`

Contains a list of local users and their attributes.

Groups: `/etc/group`

Contains a list of local users and attributes.

Hosts File: `/etc/hosts`

Contains a list of IP addresses and the hostname we want the system to associate with them.

Application Configuration: `/etc/<APPLICATION>`

Applications place their respective configuration files in the /etc directory, normally as a .conf file.

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Processes

Processes:

Data used by running processes.

Running Processes

Process ID: PID

All processes are given an ID number.

Process Data: /proc/<PID>/

Process data is stored in /proc/ within individual /<PID> folders.

Viewing Running Processes

`ps aux` : List all processes (BSD format)

`ps -eF` : List all processes (Linux format)

`top` : Utility to view running processes and resource usage

Devices

Device Data: /sys

Provides system information regarding attached hardware.

Device Files: /dev

Contains device files (normally block or character devices).

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System Messaging

System Messaging:

Viewing and accessing system messaging.

Kernel Messaging

Kernel Ring Buffer

The kernel ring buffer holds messages related to the operation of the kernel — a ring buffer is simply a buffer of a constant size.

Example

```
$ dmesg | grep sda
[ 3.854192] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] 41943040 512-byte logical
blocks: (21.5 GB/20.0 Gib)
[ 3.854235] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Write Protect is off
[ 3.854236] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Mode Sense: 61 00 00 00
[ 3.854371] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Cache data unavailable
[ 3.854373] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Assuming drive cache: write
through
[ 3.854910] sda: sda1
[ 3.855494] sd 2:0:0:0: [sda] Attached SCSI disk
[ 5.320138] EXT4-fs (sdal): mounted filesystem with ordered
data mode. Opts: (null)
[ 5.778309] EXT4-fs (sdal): re-mounted. Opts:
errors=remount-ro
```



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Logging

Logging:

Common locations for system and application log data.

Log Daemon

System Logging Protocol: `syslog`, `rsyslogd`

Syslog is a service that performs log message collection.

Common Logs

`/var/log/messages` — General system logs and messages

`/var/log/syslog` — For Debian-based systems

`/var/log/auth.log` — Authentication logs

`/var/log/secure` — For Red Hat-based systems

`/var/log/boot.log` — System boot logs

`/var/log/cron.log` — Cron job logs

`/var/log/kern.log` — Kernel logs

`/var/log/faillog` — Authentication failure logs

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Networks and Routers

Networks and Routers:

The basics of networking, the internet, and routers.

2

DNS Client Config

DNS Client Configuration:

The basics of DNS and client configuration.

3

Network Configuration

Querying Network Configuration:

How to find and determine the network configuration.

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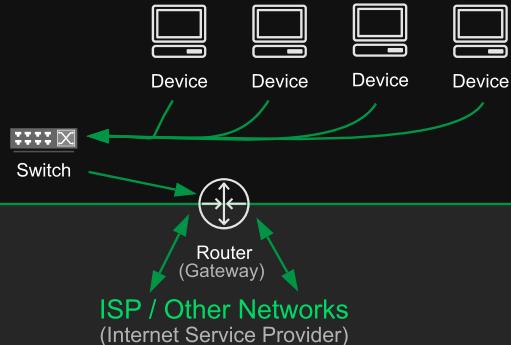
1

Networks and Routers**Networks and Routers:**

The basics of networking, the internet, and routers.

Networks**What is a network?**

A network is a group of connected devices that are able to communicate with each other.

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2

DNS Client Config**DNS Client Configuration:**

The basics of DNS and client configuration.

What is DNS?**DNS stands for Domain Name System**

For devices on the network to be reachable, they must be addressable. DNS maps domain names to their respective IP addresses.

What is the address for www.linuxacademy.com?

The answer is: 52.207.128.102

Example

```
$ dig www.linuxacademy.com
...
;; ANSWER SECTION:
www.linuxacademy.com. 60 IN A 52.207.128.102
www.linuxacademy.com. 60 IN A 52.86.183.13
...
```

Configuration**/etc/resolv.conf**

This configuration file is used to determine which hosts to use for DNS queries.

/etc/hosts

Used for statically mapping IP addresses to hostnames.



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Network Configuration**Querying Network Configuration:**
How to find and determine the network configuration.**Address Configuration****ip route show** — Show the current routing table

```
~$ ip route show
default via 10.0.1.1 dev ens33 proto dhcp metric 100
10.0.1.0/24 dev ens33 proto kernel scope link src 10.0.1.197 metric
100
169.254.0.0/16 dev ens33 scope link metric 1000
```

ip addr show — Show the current addresses

```
~$ ip addr show
...
2: ens33: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 ...
    link/ether 00:0c:29:44:93:65 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
        inet 10.0.1.197/24 brd 10.0.1.255 scope global dynamic
            noproxyroute ens33
                valid_lft 86385sec preferred_lft 86385sec
            inet6 fe80::d1bc:7e7a:d0c8:8a4e/64 scope link noproxyroute
                valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

ifconfig — View and change the interface configuration**netstat** and **ss** — View listing services and active connections

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Root and Standard Users

Root and Standard Users:
Differences between the root account, and user accounts.

2

Systems Users

System Users:
User accounts for services and processes.

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Root and Standard Users

Root and Standard Users:

Differences between the root account, and user accounts.

Standard Users

Standard Unprivileged Accounts

Standard user accounts are provided a login shell, a home directory, **limited permissions** for view system configurations, and no permission for modifying system configurations. Standard user accounts may be granted the ability to perform privileged actions using **sudo**.

sudo - super-user do

The use of sudo provides a mechanism whereby a user account is permitted the ability to run a command with elevated permissions.

Root User

The administrative account for the system

The root account has full access to all permissions on the system, and is used for system-level administration tasks. A more secure manner of administration is careful use of **sudo** privileges.

/etc/passwd

/etc/shadow

/etc/group

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5.1 Basic Security

/etc/passwd

This file contains the following seven attribute fields for each local user:

Username - unique login name

Password - empty, moved to /etc/shadow

User ID - unique number ID

Group ID - ID of primary group

GECOS - Long name

Home Directory - Login directory

Login Shell - Log in interpreter

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/etc/shadow

This file contains the actual passwords for each local user in an encrypted form. Each line contains eight fields:

Username - unique login name

Password - hashed password value

lastchanged - days since password change

Minimum - Minimum number of days between password changes

Maximum - Maximum number of days between password changes

Warn - Number of days before password expiration to warn user

Inactive - Number of days since expiration

Expire - Absolute expiration date

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/etc/group

This file contains group memberships for all local system users, and contains the following four fields:

Group - unique group name

Password - empty

Group ID (GID) - unique group ID number

Group List - a comma delimited list of usernames that belong to the group

View Group Membership:

```
~$ groups [USERNAME]
```

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System Users

System Users:

User accounts for services and processes.

System Users

Application Service Accounts

System users are generally deployed when applications are installed, their home directories are set to application folders, and they normally do not have a login shell. The purpose of having discreet users is to separate functional privileges from other applications and services.

Service: httpd

Libraries and Files

Binaries

Processes

Login Shell Disabled

user: apache

Service: mysqld

Libraries and Files

Binaries

Processes

Login Shell Disabled

user: mysql

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User and Group Commands

User and Group Commands:
Commands for managing users and groups.

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User IDs

User IDs:
Local users are given a unique ID number.

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5.2 Users and Groups

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User and Group Commands

User and Group Commands:
Commands for managing users and groups.

useradd [options] username

Creating new users

The useradd utility is used to add or create users. Options are available for specifying the UID, GID, home directory, and group membership.

/etc/skel

Boilerplate files and folders for new accounts

The contents of /etc/skel are automatically copied when a new user's home directory is created via the useradd utility.

passwd username

Update a user's password

The passwd utility may be used to update the current user's password, or another user's with sufficient privileges.

groupadd [options] groupname

Creating new groups

The groupadd utility is used to add or create groups.



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5.2 Users and Groups

2

User IDs

User IDs:

Local users are given a unique ID number.

User IDs

Numeric ID

All local users are given an identification number that is stored along with the corresponding username in `/etc/passwd`.

UID 0 — Always the **root** account

UID 1-99 — Traditionally reserved for system users

UID 100+ — Standard users (some distributions start higher)

UID 65534 — Reserved for the user **nobody**

Remote Users

Typically, a range of UIDs is reserved for non-local users in order to prevent UID collisions with local users.

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File and Directory Permissions

File and Directory Permissions:
Permissions and ownership of files
and directories.

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5.3 File and Directory Permissions and Ownership

1

File and Directory Permissions

File and Directory Permissions:
Permissions and ownership of files and directories.

7
rwx5
r-x5
r-x

Numeric Permissions		
7	Read, write, execute	
6	Read, write	
5	Read, execute	
4	Read	
3	Execute, write	
2	Write	
1	Execute	
0	No permissions	



user



group



everyone

chown**chmod**

Directory Permissions

Execute = Enter Directory

Directories require execute permissions in order to be entered by the user, group, or everyone.

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5.3 File and Directory Permissions and Ownership

```
chown [OPTIONS] USER[:GROUP] FILE(s)
```

Changes the ownership of the file.

Examples

Change a file's user ownership:

```
$ chown cloud_user file1
```

Change a file's group ownership:

```
$ chown :cloud_user file1
```

Change a file's user and group ownership:

```
$ chown cloud_user:cloud_user file1
```

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5.3 File and Directory Permissions and Ownership

`chmod [OPTIONS] PERMISSIONS file`

Changes the permissions of a file.

Examples

Read, write, and execute for all:

`$ chmod 777 file1`

Read, write, and execute for owner; read for group and everyone:

`$ chmod 744 file1`

Add execute to current permissions:

`$ chmod +x file1`

Remove write from current permissions:

`$ chmod -w file1`

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Temporary Files and Folders

Temporary Files and Folders:

Creating and working with temporary files and folders.

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Symbolic Links

Symbolic Links:

Creating and working with symbolic links.

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1

Temporary Files and Folders

Temporary Files and Folders:

Creating and working with temporary files and folders.

/tmp

Cleared upon system boot

All content in /tmp is **cleared** upon system boot. This directory is used by programs or scripts that require temporary files or directories.

/var/tmp

Cleared every 30 days (depending on distro)

All content in /var/tmp **persists** through a system boot. This directory is used by programs or scripts that require temporary files or directories with more persistence than /tmp offers.

mktemp [OPTION] [NAME TEMPLATE]

Create a temporary file or directory

mktemp can be used to create ad hoc files and directories with a randomized file name portion. These files are not automatically removed.



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Symbolic Links

Symbolic Links:

Creating and working with symbolic links.

/

/folder1



Symbolic Link

/

/folder2



Original File

Symbolic Links

Create a symbolic link to a file or directory

```
~$ ln -s [TARGET] [LINK NAME]
```

The above command creates a symbolic link to the target as a file specified by [LINK NAME].

Example:

```
~$ ln -s /home/cloud_user/file1 /tmp/file2
```