Popular extra command-line tools

The following commands are popular among Linux users and can help you solve several tasks using the command line.

less:

Do you remember listing something on the screen and the resulting output being too long that the entire list did not fit in the screen? The *less* command is tool that displays the contents one page at a time in our terminal. The *less* utility is useful for viewing the content of large files or the results of commands that produce many lines of output. The content displayed by less can be navigated using keyboard shortcuts, such as arrow keys to navigate up and down the pages.

chown:

This command changes the owner of a given file. It allows us to change the user and group ownership of each given file.

chgrp:

You can change the group owner of a file with *chgrp*. (Example: *chgrp newgroup myfile.txt*)

wget:

The utility *wget* is a free software to retrieve files from the internet. For example, you can download a file from the web by typing: *wget https://some-domain.com/file.deb.* This command is similar to another tool called *curl*, which performs similar tasks of transferring files across the network.

mount:

All files accessible in a Unix system are arranged in one big tree (the file hierarchy), rooted at /. These files can be spread out over several devices. The *mount* command attaches the file system found on some device to this big file tree.
The mount command follows the pattern: *mount -t <type> <devicename> <destinationfolder>*
(For example: mount -t iso9660 -o ro /dev/cdrom /mnt)

unmount:

Conversely, the *umount* command will detach the mounted filesystem from the main file tree.

df:

The command *df* (disk free) displays the amount of available disk space for a file system. The flag *-h* can be used to display the free space in human-readable format (KB, MB, GB, etc.)

zip:

The *zip* command bundles and compresses files. While the command *tar* just bundles files together, *zip* applies compression as well.
Usually users can use *gzip* with *tar* to compress files, thus achieving similar results as with *zip*.

ssh:

We can login and connect to remote systems/machines using the ssh command. It provides a secure shell connection to a Linux server. If your remote machine allows ssh connections, you can invoke a new ssh shell by typing: ssh username@hostname (For example: ssh gpezzi@192.168.8.107 given that the IP is a valid machine in your internal network).

ping:

The ping command is fairly simple. It just sends a request and checks if the remote endpoint is responsive. I use ping to usually test if a server is active and listening to requests, or if a given URL is responding to simple network requests via the network. You can use ping just by typing: ping <host-ip-or-url> (For example: ping pikuma.com).

ifconfig:

This is a system administrator utility used to set or retrieve the IP addresses and netmasks of a network interface. Ifconfig can also enable or disable network interfaces. To check these network details (including your system's IP address), just type *ifconfig* on the command prompt.

netstat:

The *netstat* (network statistics) command delivers basic statistics on all network activities and informs users on which ports and addresses the corresponding connections (TCP, UDP) are running and which ports are open for tasks.

ranger:

Ranger is a terminal file manager that uses vim-based keyboard shortcuts. If you are familiar with vim, you should download and check *ranger*.

diff:

This command is used to display the differences between files by comparing them line by line. It also tells us which lines in one file have to be changed to make the two files identical.