# command-line-tricks

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## Practical Terminal Commands Every Developer Should Know

Level up your command-line skills with these practical terminal tricks. These tips can save you time, fix mistakes quickly, or help debug without extra tools. Whether you're a beginner or a power user, there's something here for everyone.

#### 1. !! $\rightarrow$ Repeat the Last Command

Forget to use sudo? No need to retype everything.

```
$ apt-get install curl
Permission denied
$ sudo !!
```

!! re-runs your last command. Handy for correcting permission issues.

#### 2. $!\$ \rightarrow \text{Reuse the Last Argument}$

Automatically inserts the last argument from your previous command.

```
$ mkdir logs
$ cd !$
```

Here, !\$ becomes logs.

#### 3. $\widehat{}$ old $\widehat{}$ new $\rightarrow$ Fix Typos Quickly

Fixes the first occurrence of a typo and re-runs the command.

```
$ cat fole.txt
$ ^fole^file
$ cat file.txt
```

Great for minor typo corrections.

## 4. Alt + . (Mac: Esc + .) $\rightarrow$ Cycle Through Last Arguments

Pulls the last argument from previous commands and cycles through them.

```
$ vim server_config.yml
$ cat <Alt+.>
```

Inserts server\_config.yml.

#### 5. $xargs \rightarrow Turn Output into Arguments$

Pass a list of items into another command.

```
$ ls *.log | xargs rm
```

Deletes all .log files using rm.

#### 6. tee $\rightarrow$ Save Output While Still Seeing It

Splits output to both screen and file.

```
$ make build | tee build.log
```

Useful for logging while watching build progress.

### 7. grep -R "pattern" . $\rightarrow$ Search Inside Files Recursively

Finds all occurrences of a pattern in the current directory.

```
$ grep -R "TODO" .
```

Ideal for scanning source code or config files.

#### 8. fc $\rightarrow$ Edit and Rerun Your Last Command

Opens the last command in your default editor for modification.

\$ fc

Great for editing long or complex commands.

## 9. $!!:n \rightarrow \text{Reuse a Specific Argument}$

Extract a specific argument from the last command.

```
$ echo one two three
$ echo !!:2
two
```

!!:2 uses the second argument.

#### 10. Ctrl + a / Ctrl + e $\rightarrow$ Jump to Line Start/End

- Ctrl + a: Move to beginning of line.
- Ctrl + e: Move to end of line.

Boosts navigation speed.

#### 11. Ctrl + w / Ctrl + u $\rightarrow$ Delete Words or Lines

- Ctrl + w: Delete word before the cursor.
- Ctrl + u: Delete entire line before the cursor.

Helpful for cleaning up commands.

#### 12. $!!:gs/old/new/ \rightarrow Global Replace in Last Command$

Replaces all instances of old with new.

```
$ echo world world
$ !!:gs/world/universe/
universe universe
```

Perfect for mass substitutions.

#### 13. df -h / du -sh $* \rightarrow$ Check Disk Usage

Find out what's eating your storage:

```
$ df -h  # Disk free space (human readable)
$ du -sh *  # Size of all files/folders in current dir
```

#### 14. lsof $-i :<port> \rightarrow See What's Using a Port$

Find the process locking a port.

Now you know what to kill or restart.

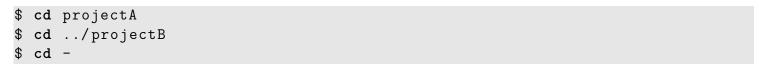
## 15. nc -zv <host> <port> $\rightarrow$ Test if a Port is Open

Quick connectivity check:

Useful for debugging networking issues.



Like an "undo" for cd.



Jumps you back to projectA.

#### 17. Ctrl + 1 $\rightarrow$ Clear the Screen Instantly

Forget typing clear. Just use:

Ctrl + 1

#### **Bonus Tips**

history → View Command History

#### \$ history

See all past commands. Use !123 to re-run command #123.

pushd / popd → Stack Navigation for Directories

```
$ pushd folderA
$ pushd folderB
$ popd
```

Let you switch between directories using a stack.

watch → Repeatedly Run a Command

\$ watch -n 2 ls -1

Runs 1s -1 every 2 seconds. Great for monitoring file changes.