

Ultimate SSH Commands Cheat Sheet



// **Secure Shell (SSH)** is a remote protocol for controlling a remote server over the Internet. The SSH commands allow a user to establish a secure connection between the client and the host for data transfer. //

This article will cover 17 basic SSH commands and each of their functions. You'll find the cheat sheet most useful when managing a Linux server or a VPS.

Navigating Between Directories/Files

ls

This command lists the names of files and directories. Follow it up with **-a** to display hidden files and directories.

cd

Type **cd [directory name]** to switch between directories.

- **cd..** go back to the previous directory.
- **cd/** return to the root directory.

pwd

This command shows the full path of the directory you are currently in.

mv

Use the command **mv [file name] [destination]** to move the file to the chosen folder. Example: **mv /home /hostinger/ftp/myfile.txt /home/hostinger/myfolder**

find

The basic syntax for this command is **find [starting directory] [options] [keyword]**. **[starting directory]** indicates the search area. Choose one of the three options:

- **/** (slash) go back to the previous directory.
- **.** (dot) return to the root directory.
- **~** (tilde) search the home directory.

[options] is an additional flag to narrow down the search. Choose one of the three options, and then follow it up with the search keyword.

- **-name** based on the file's name.
- **-user** based on a particular user.
- **-size** based on the file's size.

Example: **find . -name "index"**

Creating/removing Files and Directories

mkdir

This command creates a folder with a chosen name.
Example: `mkdir newfolder`

touch

This command creates a file with a given file name and extension. Example:
`touch newfile.txt`

rm

The **rm [file name]** command removes a chosen file or folder. Type **rm -r [directory name]** to delete a chosen folder along with its content.

cp

The **cp [options] [file name] [destination]** command copies a file or folder to the chosen destination. If the syntax contains two file names, the source file will overwrite the destination file.

[option] is an additional flag to make a copy of a file or folder with a specific condition.

- **-f** creates a new file if you don't have writing permission to the destination file.
- **-u** copies the source file if it is newer than the destination file.
- **-n** prevents overwriting an existing file.
- **-a** archives the files.

When copying a folder, add **-r** after **cp** to duplicate the files and directories inside it. Example: `cp -r /home/hostinger/myfolder /home/etc/`

Modifying Files

cat

The **cat [file name]** command displays the content of the given file. Use **cat [file source 1] [file source 2] > [merged file]** to create a new file by merging two or more files.

vi/nano

The **vi [file name]** and **nano [file name]** commands allow you to access the Vi and Nano text editors for creating and editing files in the terminal.

tar

This command creates or extracts **tar.gx** files.

- `tar -xzvf [file name.tar.gx]` extracts compressed **tar.gx** file.
- `tar -cvzf [file name.tar.gx] [/path/to/directory]` compresses a folder in **tar.gx** format.

grep

Use this to look for a specific string in a chosen file.

- `grep "word" [file name]` prints lines containing the case-sensitive keyword.
- `grep -i "word" [file name]` does a case-insensitive search.
- `grep -v "word" [file name]` prints lines not containing the keyword.
- `grep -c "word" [file name]` counts the number of findings.

Additional SSH Commands

wget

Use the **wget http://fileurl/file-name.ext** command to download files from the Internet.

du

The **du [directory]** command displays the size of files and folders in the chosen directory in disk block format. Add **-h** after **du** to convert the result in a readable format.

clear

This command clears all text from the terminal's screen.

history

This command displays the last used commands. Add a numeric number after **history** to determine the limit of the results. Use the **history -c** command to clear your history.