

OPEN-SOURCE EBOOK

++101 LINUX COMMANDS

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101 Linux commands Open-source eBook

This is an open-source eBook with 101 Linux commands that everyone should know. No matter if you are a DevOps/SysOps engineer, developer, or just a Linux enthusiast, you will most likely have to use the terminal at some point in your career.

Verbose (detailed) output while compressing:

Action: --- Compress a file in a more verbose manner

Details: --- Output more information about the action of the command

Command:

```
gzip -v file_name
```

The `whatis` command

The `whatis` command is used to display one-line manual page descriptions for commands. It can be used to get a basic understanding of what a (unknown) command is used for.

Examples of uses:

1. To display what `ls` is used for:

```
whatis ls
```

2. To display the use of all commands which start with `make`, execute the following:

```
whatis -w make*
```

Syntax:

```
whatis [-OPTION] [KEYWORD]
```

Additional Flags and their Functionalities:

Short Flag	Long Flag	Description
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<code>-d</code>	<code>--debug</code>	Show debugging messages
<code>-r</code>	<code>--regex</code>	Interpret each keyword as a regex

Short Flag Long Flag Description

-w	--wildcard	The keyword(s) contain wildcards
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The **who** command

The **who** command lets you print out a list of logged-in users, the current run level of the system and the time of last system boot.

Examples

1. Print out all details of currently logged-in users

```
who -a
```

2. Print out the list of all dead processes

```
who -d -H
```

Syntax:

```
who [options] [filename]
```

Additional Flags and their Functionalities

Short Flag	Description
-r	prints all the current runlevel
-d	print all the dead processes
-q	print all the login names and total number of logged on users

Short Flag	Description
-h	print the heading of the columns displayed
-b	print the time of last system boot

The **free** command

The **free** command in Linux/Unix is used to show memory (RAM/SWAP) information.

```
echo [option] [string]
```

It is usually used in shell scripts and batch files to output status text to the screen or a file. The `-e` used with it enables the interpretation of backslash escapes

Additional Options and their Functionalities:

Option Description

<code>\b</code>	removes all the spaces in between the text
<code>\c</code>	suppress trailing new line with backspace interpreter <code>'-e'</code> to continue without emitting new line.
<code>\n</code>	creates new line from where it is used
<code>\t</code>	creates horizontal tab spaces
<code>\r</code>	carriage returns with backspace interpreter <code>'-e'</code> to have specified carriage return in output
<code>\v</code>	creates vertical tab spaces
<code>\a</code>	alert returns with a backspace interpreter <code>'-e'</code> to have sound alert
<code>-n</code>	omits echoing trailing newline .

The `finger` Command

The `finger` command displays information about local system users by querying files such as `/etc/passwd`, `/var/run/utmp`, and `/var/log/wtmp`. It is a local command and does not rely on any service or daemon to run. This command helps to quickly retrieve user-related details such as login times, idle status, and other system information.

Examples:

1. View details about a particular user.

```
finger abc
```

Output

```
Login: abc                               Name: (null)
Directory: /home/abc                     Shell: /bin/bash
On since Mon Nov  1 18:45 (IST) on :0 (messages off)
On since Mon Nov  1 18:46 (IST) on pts/0 from :0.0
New mail received Fri May  7 10:33 2013 (IST)
Unread since Sat Jun  7 12:59 2003 (IST)
No Plan.
```

2. View login details and idle status about a user.

```
finger -s root
```

Output

Login	Name		Tty	Idle	Login Time
Office	Office	Phone			
root	root	*1	19d Wed	17:45	
root	root	*2	3d Fri	16:53	
root	root	*3	Mon	20:20	
root	root	*ta	2 Tue	15:43	
root	root	*tb	2 Tue	15:44	

Syntax:

```
finger [-l] [-m] [-p] [-s] [username]
```

Additional Flags and Their Functionalities:

Flag Description

- l Force long output format.
- m Match arguments only on username (not first or last name).
- p Suppress printing of the .plan file in a long format printout.
- s Force short output format.

Additional Information:

Default Format:

The default format includes items like login name, full username, terminal name, and write status. The command provides details like idle time, login time, and site-specific information.

Longer Format:

In a long format, the command adds details such as the user's home directory, login shell, and the contents of `.plan` and `.project` files.

This is a sample from "101 Linux Commands" by Bobby Iliev and the Hacktoberfest community.

For more information, [Click here](#).