30 Essential Linux Commands with Explanations

1. **Is**

Lists directory contents.

2. **cd**

Changes the current directory.

3. **pwd**

Prints the current working directory.

4. **touch**

Creates an empty file or updates the timestamp of an existing file.

5. **cp**

Copies files or directories.

6. **mv**

Moves or renames files or directories.

7. **rm**

Removes files or directories.

8. **mkdir**

Creates a new directory.

9. **rmdir**

Removes an empty directory.

10. **chmod**

Changes file or directory permissions.

11. **chown**

Changes file owner and group.

12. **cat**

Concatenates and displays file content.

13. **less**

Views file content one screen at a time.

14. **head**

Displays the first few lines of a file.

15. **tail**

Displays the last few lines of a file.

16. **grep**

Searches for patterns in files.

17. **find**

Searches for files in a directory hierarchy.

18. **<u>df</u>**

Displays disk space usage.

19. **du**

Displays file and directory disk usage.

20. **top**

Displays active processes in real-time.

21. **ps**

Reports a snapshot of current processes.

22. **<u>kill</u>**

Terminates a process by PID.

23. **wget**

Retrieves files from the web.

24. <u>curl</u>

Transfers data from or to a server.

25. **nano**

A simple text editor.

26. <u>vim</u>

A powerful text editor.

27. **sudo**

Executes a command as another user, usually root.

28. **apt-get**

Handles packages for Debian-based systems.

29. **yum**

Handles packages for Red Hat-based systems.

30. **tar**

Archives files.

31. **zip**

Compresses files into a zip archive.