

<CH.6>[*Getting Help*]

<*Man Pages*>

'manual pages (name from UNIX) are used to describe the features of a command.'

-*Viewing Man Pages:*

man [command]

'The man command uses a pager to display documents: `less` & `more`.'

'use' H 'key while viewing a man page to display help.'

-*Section Within Man Pages:*

'man pages are broken into sections:'

>NAME: 'name and brief description'

>SYNOPSIS: 'example(s) of how the command is executed'

>DESCRIPTION: 'more detailed description'

>OPTIONS: 'lists options as well as a description of how they are used'

>FILES: 'lists the files associated and a description on using them'

>AUTHOR: 'man page creator'

>REPORTING BUGS: 'how to report bugs'

>COPYRIGHT: 'basic copyright information'

>SEE ALSO: 'provides an idea of where you can find additional info'

-*Searching Man Pages:*

'type' / 'followed by a search term, then hit ENTER.'

'press' n 'to move to the next match.'

'press' Shift+n 'to move to the previous match.'

-*Man Pages Categorized by Sections:*

'there are thousands of man pages on a typical Linux distro.'

'to organize all of these man pages, they are organized by section:'

1-*General Commands*

2-*System Calls*

3-*Library Calls*

4-*Special Files*

5-*File Formats and Conventions*

6-*Games*

7-*Miscellaneous*

8-*System Administration Commands*

9-*Kernel Routines*

```
man -f [COMMAND] 'search for man pages by name.'  
man -k [COMMAND] 'search for man pages by both name and description.'  
whatis 'is the same as' man -f 'on most distros.'  
apropos 'is the same as' man -k 'on most distros.'
```

<Finding Commands and Documentation>

```
whatis 'or' man -f 'command returns what section a man page is stored in.'
```

-Where Are These Commands located:

```
whereis 'searches for the location of a command or its man pages.'
```

```
'man pages are typically compressed with `gzip` ending in `.gz`'
```

-Find Any File or Directory:

```
locate command 'finds any file or directory.'
```

```
- 'searches a database of all files and directories that were on the system'  
  'when the database was created.'
```

```
-locate -c 'returns the count of files matching.'
```

```
-locate -b 'returns files matching the "basename".'
```

```
-locate -b '"\search_term"`: returns files mathing exactly their "basename".'
```

```
updatedb 'updates the "locate" database (root access required.)'
```

<Info Documentation>

```
info command 'also provides documentation in a slightly different format than `man`.'
```

```
- 'it gives a logical organizational structure, making it easier to read.'
```

-Viewing Info Documentation:

```
'current node is displayed highlighted in the bottom.'
```

```
u → 'go up one node.'
```

```
n → 'go to the next node.'
```

```
l → 'go back to the last node seen in this window'
```

```
q → 'quit info altogether'
```

-Navigating Info Documents:

```
'hiting' SHIFT+H 'while reading the info documentation displays a'
```

```
'listing of movement commands.'
```

-Exploring Info Documentation:

```
'execute info command without any arguments. good starting point to explore its features'
```

<Additional Sources of Help>

-Using the Help Option:

command `--help` 'provides basic information, very similar to the synopsis in man pages'

-Additional System Documentation:

'`readme` files: provide additional documentation.'

'`/usr/share/doc` or `/usr/doc`'

'is where sys admins go to learn how to set up more complex software services.'