

Lab - Creating a Permanent Alias in Fedora Linux

Overview

The Alias Command

The **alias** command is left over from Unix but it also works in DOS, earlier versions Windows, and most recently in PowerShell. The Alias command can be issued to replace a common command with a shorter word. An example would be the command 'sudo dnf -y update' could be shortened to 'sysupdate' using the Alias command. Unless the command is made permanent, the changes will be lost when the machine restarts or the **unalias** command is issued.

The syntax for this example would be:

```
alias sysupdate= 'sudo dnf -y update'
```

Another example would be:

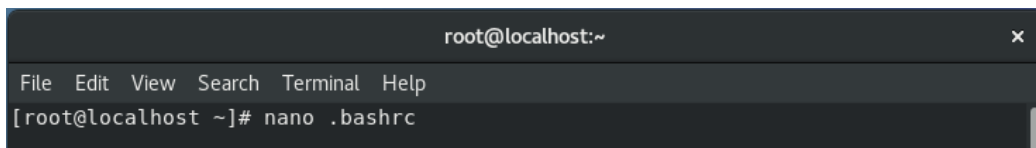
In the first example, the command "sudo dnf -y update" is shortened to the single word, sysupdate.

This is fun and good until we need to do a restart or shutdown the machine, but we can make the convenience of using the alias command a permanent one. The solution is to enter the alias in the .bashrc file.

Logon to your install of Fedora and launch a terminal.

You are free to use any text editor of your choosing but for this demonstration we will be using the text editor Nano.

At the terminal prompt, type: nano .bashrc



This opens up the .bashrc file inside the Nano text editor. Use your down arrow key to move through the file until you come to the alias section. Use your right arrow key to move your cursor to end of the last line commented out:

```
#alias egrep='egrep --color=auto' and hit enter to start a new line.
```

```
root@localhost:~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
GNU nano 2.8.7 File: .bashrc Modified  
# .bashrc  
# User specific aliases and functions  
alias rm='rm -i'  
alias cp='cp -i'  
alias mv='mv -i'  
alias sysupdate='dnf -y update'  
← Start typing here!  
# Source global definitions  
if [ -f /etc/bashrc ]; then  
    . /etc/bashrc  
fi
```

Type the new alias into the text file location using the following format.

```
alias sysupdate='apt-get update && apt-get upgrade'
```

```
root@localhost:~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
GNU nano 2.8.7 File: .bashrc Modified  
# .bashrc  
# User specific aliases and functions  
alias rm='rm -i'  
alias cp='cp -i'  
alias mv='mv -i'  
alias sysupdate='sudo dnf -y update'  
# Source global definitions  
if [ -f /etc/bashrc ]; then  
    . /etc/bashrc  
fi
```

To exist the Nano editor, hit the ctrl+X key. When asked if you want to save the modified buffer, type y for yes.

```
Save modified buffer? (Answering "No" will DISCARD changes.)  
Y Yes  
N No ^C Cancel
```

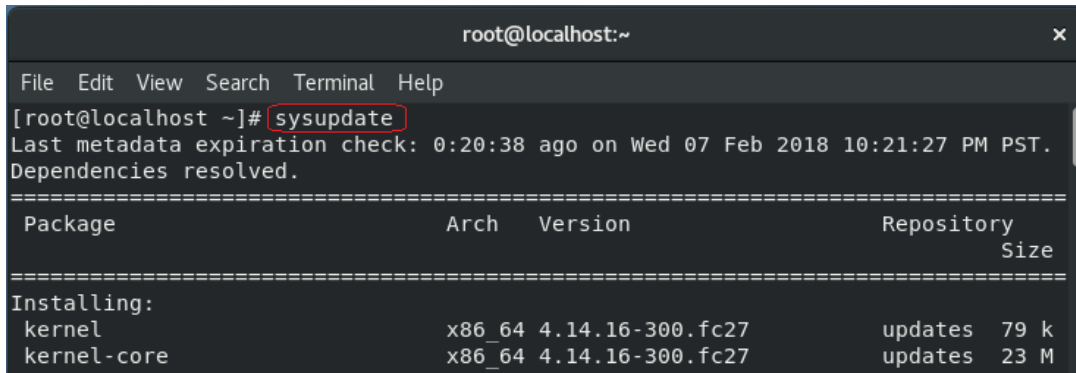
At the next screen, to accept the default name of the file, just hit enter.

```
File Name to Write: .bashrc  
^G Get Help ^M-D DOS Format ^M-A Append ^M-B Backup File  
^C Cancel ^M-M Mac Format ^M-P Prepend ^M-T To Files
```

Reboot the machine for the new alias to take effect.

Close your exiting terminal and open a new one.

At the terminal prompt, check your new alias by typing: `sysupdate`.



A terminal window titled 'root@localhost:~' with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help). The prompt is '[root@localhost ~]#'. The command 'sysupdate' is entered and highlighted with a red box. The output shows the last metadata expiration check and a table of packages to be installed.

```
[root@localhost ~]# sysupdate
Last metadata expiration check: 0:20:38 ago on Wed 07 Feb 2018 10:21:27 PM PST.
Dependencies resolved.
=====
Package                                Arch    Version                               Repository    Size
=====
Installing:
kernel                                x86_64  4.14.16-300.fc27                     updates      79 k
kernel-core                           x86_64  4.14.16-300.fc27                     updates     23 M
=====
```

Now each time you need to update and update your install, you just need to type in but one word for the entire command syntax, 'sudo dnf -y update'

More useful alias commands.

Control output of the ping command

Stop pinging after sending count ECHO_REQUEST packets #. I want ping to stop after sending 5 ECHO_REQUEST.

```
alias ping='ping -c 5'
```

Show Open Ports

Use netstat command to quickly list all TCP/UDP port on the server:

```
alias ports='netstat -tuln'
```

Clear the terminal screen.

```
alias c='clear'
```

End of lab!