Unix and Shell Commands Cheat Sheet (with Examples)

Category	Command	Description	Example
File Management	ls	List directory contents	ls /Users/demo
File Management	cd	Change directory	cd /Users/demo
File Management	pwd	Print current directory	pwd
File Management	cp	Copy files/directories	cp source.txt /Users/demo/
File Management	mv	Move or rename files/directories	mv source.txt /Users/demo/
File Management	rm	Remove files/directories	rm /Users/demo/source.txt
File Management	touch	Create an empty file	touch newfile.txt
File Management	mkdir	Create a directory	mkdir /Users/demo/newdir
File Management	rmdir	Remove empty directory	rmdir /Users/demo/oldir
File Viewing	cat	View file contents	cat /Users/demo/file.txt
File Viewing	less	View file one screen at a time	less /Users/demo/file.txt
File Viewing	head	View the first lines of a file	head -n 10 /Users/demo/file.txt
File Viewing	tail	View the last lines of a file	tail -n 10 /Users/demo/file.txt
Text Processing	grep	Search for patterns in files	grep 'pattern' /Users/demo/file.txt
Text Processing	awk	Pattern scanning and processing language	awk '{print $1}' /Users/demo/file.txt
Text Processing	sed	Stream editor for filtering and transforming text	sed 's/old/new/g' /Users/demo/file.txt
Permission	chmod	Change file permissions	chmod 755 /Users/demo/script.sh
Permission	chown	Change file ownership	chown user:group /Users/demo/file.txt
Searching	find	Find files and directories	find /Users/demo -name '*.txt'
Searching	locate	Find files by name	locate file.txt
Process	ps	View active processes	ps aux
Process	top	Real-time view of running processes	top
Process	kill	Terminate processes	kill 1234

Networking	ping	Check network connectivity	ping google.com
Networking	curl	Transfer data from or to a server	curl https://example.com
Networking	wget	Download files from the web	wget https://example.com/file.zip
Archive	tar	Archive files	tar -cvf archive.tar /Users/demo/
Archive	zip	Compress files	zip archive.zip /Users/demo/file.txt
Archive	unzip	Extract compressed files	unzip archive.zip -d /Users/demo/
User Info	whoami	Current user ID	whoami
User Info	id	User ID and group ID	id
Disk Usage	df	Disk space usage	df -h
Disk Usage	du	Estimate file space usage	du -sh /Users/demo/
Shell	echo	Print text to terminal	echo 'Hello, World!'
Shell	history	Show command history	history
Shell	alias	Create command shortcuts	alias ll='ls -la'
Package Management	brew	Package manager for macOS	brew install wget