

Linux CLI Cheat Sheet

Legend: Everything in “< >” is to be replaced, ex: <fileN> --> readme.txt. Don't include '=' in your commands.

File Navigation

ls = list contents of directory
ls -a = list all files and folders
 <folderName> = list of files in folder
 -l = detailed list
 -alh = list all, detailed files, human-readable
 -l *.jpg = list only jpeg files in that folder

pwd = print working directory

cd <directory> = change directory
 cd / = go to root
 cd .. = go to up one folder

man <commandName> = shows manual

File Manipulation

touch <fileName> = create or update a file

cat <fileName> = show contents of file
head (from the top) -n (#OfLines) <fileName>
tail (from the bottom) -n (#OfLines) <fileName>

pwd = print working directory

mkdir <directoryName> = create new directory

cp <fileN> <newFileN> = copy and rename a file
 <fileN> <foldrN\> = copy files to a folder
 *.jpg myFoldr\ = copy all of *.<fileT> to folder

mv <fileN> <foldrN\> = move file to a folder
 <foldrN> <foldrN2> = move folder in folder2
 <fileN> <fileN2> = rename file name

rm <fileName> = delete file
 -r <foldrN> = delete folder recursively

rmdir <folderName> = delete empty folder

cat <someContent>

Printing and Redirection

echo <someString> = prints the string

'>' redirects the output of the command to the destination file

<command> > <filename> = replace the content of the file with output of the command

'>>' to redirects the output of the command end of the file

<command> >> <filename> = add the output of the command to the end of the file (basically append)

echo "something" > filename = something will be written on the file
echo "something" >> filename = something will be appended to the end of file

Find, Sort, Filter and Extract Data

grep <someText> <filename> = search for text in file
 -i = ignore uppercase words
 -r <text> <foldrN\> = search for file names with the occurrence of the text

'|' chain two or more commands

cat <fileName> | grep <text> = show the content of the file having the text

sort <fileName> = sort the contents of files alphabetically
 -r <fileName> = sort in reverse order
 -n <filename> = sort numbers

wc <fileName> = count number of words, lines
 -w (words), -l (lines), -m (number of character)

More info: man sort, man grep, man wc

whereis <appName> = returns the path where the app is installed

whatis <appName> = displays one-line manual page descriptions

Package/ Application Management

sudo apt update = updates the package lists for upgrades for packages that need upgrading, as well as new packages that have just come to the repositories.

sudo apt upgrade = actually installs the newer version of packages after updating the lists.

sudo apt install <packageName> = install packages from the current list of repositories.
sudo apt install vim

sudo add-apt-repository ppa:<userN>/<ppaName> = adds the repository in your list of packages, so that you can install the packages under that repository

Developer Commands

<textEditor> <filename.extension> = opens the text editor with the filename having the given extension
gedit hello.c

<compiler> <filename.extension> = compiles your code using the compiler
gcc hello.c

./a.out = prints the output of the compiled source file

