# What is an Alias?

If you find yourself typing the same command over and over again, you can create a shortcut for it called an alias. An alias can be thought of as a text expander. Creating aliases for commands that are really long is also a common practice. For example, if you type `ls -l` frequently, you may want to abbreviate it to `ll.` As a matter of fact, this alias often comes predefined on many Linux distributions.

# The alias Command

alias [name[=value]]

The alias command lists or create aliases. If no arguments are provided the current list of aliases is displayed. Use name=value to create a new alias.

# Colorize Output

# Colordiff may not be installed by default. (sudo apt-get -y colordiff to install on Ubuntu systems.)

alias diff='colordiff'

alias egrep='egrep --color=auto'

alias fgrep='fgrep --color=auto'

alias grep='grep --color=auto'

alias ls='ls --color=auto'

# Changing Directories

alias ..='cd ..'

alias ...='cd ../../../'

alias ....='cd ../../../../'

# Prettify the Output of Various Commands

# Use the column command to create pretty tables.

alias ct='column -t'

alias dfc='df -hPT | column -t'

alias mount='mount | column -t'

# Date and Time Aliases

alias d='date +%F'

alias now='date +"%T"'

alias nowtime=now

alias nowdate='date +"%m-%d-%Y"'

# Confirmation When Copying, Linking, or Deleting

alias cp='cp -i'

alias ln='ln -i'

alias mv='mv -i'

# System Updates

# Debian / Ubuntu:

alias apt-get="sudo apt-get"

alias updatey="sudo apt-get -y"

alias update='sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade'

 # RHEL, CentOS, Fedora

alias update='yum update'

alias updatey='yum -y update'