TOPIC: CONFUSED LINUX COMMANDS

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1. File and directory navigation

cd vs pwd vs ls

- cd [directory] → Changes the current directory.
- **pwd** → Prints the current working directory.
- **ls** → Lists the contents of a directory.

ls vs ll

- **ls** → Lists files in the directory (default format).
- **ll** → Detailed listing (long format, often an alias for ls -l).

2. File manipulation

cp vs mv vs rm

- cp source destination → Copies files or directories.
- mv source destination → Moves or renames files or directories.
- rm file → Removes a file (permanent deletion).

rm vs rmdir

- rm -r directory → Removes a directory and its contents.
- rmdir directory → Removes an empty directory only.

3. File viewing

cat vs tac vs less vs more

- cat file → Displays file content from start to end.
- tac file → Displays file content in reverse order.
- less file → Opens file for scrolling (allows backward movement).
- more file → Opens file for viewing but cannot scroll backward.

4. File permissions & ownership

chmod vs chown vs chgrp

- **chmod 755 file** → Changes file permissions.
- **chown user file** → Changes file owner.
- **chgrp group file** → Changes file group ownership.

5. Process management

ps vs top vs htop

- **ps** → Displays running processes (static snapshot).
- top → Displays real-time running processes.
- **htop** → Interactive version of top (if installed).

kill vs pkill vs killall

- kill PID → Kills a specific process by PID.
- **pkill name** → Kills processes matching a name.
- **killall name** → Kills all processes with a matching name.

6. Disk & space management

df vs du

- df -h → Displays available disk space.
- du -sh directory → Displays space used by a specific directory.

7. Networking commands

ping vs traceroute

- ping domain.com → Checks connectivity by sending ICMP packets.
- traceroute domain.com → Shows the path taken to reach the destination.

wget vs curl

- wget URL → Downloads a file from a URL.
- **curl URL** → Fetches content (more versatile for APIs and headers).

8. User management

who vs w vs whoami

- who → Shows currently logged-in users.
- w → Shows logged-in users with activity details.
- whoami → Displays the current user's name.

9. Archiving & compression

tar vs zip vs gzip

- tar -cvf archive.tar directory/ → Creates an archive without compression.
- tar -czvf archive.tar.gz directory/ → Creates a compressed tarball.
- **zip -r archive.zip directory/** → Compresses files into a ZIP archive.
- gzip file → Compresses a file, replacing it with .gz.

10. Searching & text processing

grep vs egrep vs fgrep

- grep pattern file → Searches for a pattern in a file.
- egrep pattern file → Extended grep (supports more regex).
- **fgrep pattern file** → Fast grep (searches fixed strings, no regex).

find vs locate

- find /path -name filename → Searches for a file in a directory.
- **locate filename** → Searches using an indexed database (faster).