

List of Unix commands

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This is a list of Unix commands as specified by IEEE Std 1003.1-2008, which is part of the Single UNIX Specification (SUS). These commands can be found on Unix operating systems and most Unix-like operating systems.

List

IEEE Std 1003.1-2008 utilities

admin	SCCS	Create and administer SCCS files	PWB UNIX
alias	Misc	Define or display aliases	
ar	Misc	Create and maintain library archives	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
asa	Text processing	Interpret carriage-control characters	System V
at	Process management	Execute commands at a later time	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
awk	Text processing	Pattern scanning and processing language	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
basename	Filesystem	Return non-directory portion of a pathname; see also dirname	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
batch	Process management	Schedule commands to be executed in a batch queue	
bc	Misc	Arbitrary-precision arithmetic language	Version 6 AT&T UNIX
bg	Process management	Run jobs in the background	
cc/c99	C programming	Compile standard C programs	IEEE Std 1003.1-2001
cal	Misc	Print a calendar	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
cat	Filesystem	Concatenate and print files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
cd	Filesystem	Change the working directory	Version 6 AT&T UNIX
cflow	C programming	Generate a C-language call graph	System V
chgrp	Filesystem	Change the file group ownership	PWB UNIX
chmod	Filesystem	Change the file modes/attributes/permissions	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
chown	Filesystem	Change the file ownership	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
cksum	Filesystem	Write file checksums and sizes	4.4BSD

cmp	Filesystem	Compare two files; see also diff	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
comm	Text processing	Select or reject lines common to two files	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
command	Shell programming	Execute a simple command	
compress	Filesystem	Compress data	4.3BSD
cp	Filesystem	Copy files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
crontab	Misc	Schedule periodic background work	System V
csplit	Text processing	Split files based on context	PWB UNIX
ctags	C programming	Create a tags file	3BSD
cut	Text processing	Cut out selected fields of each line of a file	System III
cxref	C programming	Generate a C-language program cross-reference table	System V
date	Misc	Display the date and time	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
dd	Filesystem	Convert and copy a file	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
delta	SCCS	Make a delta (change) to an SCCS file	PWB UNIX
df	Filesystem	Report free disk space	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
diff	Text processing	Compare two files; see also cmp	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
dirname	Filesystem	Return the directory portion of a pathname; see also basename	System III
du	Filesystem	Estimate file space usage	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
echo	Shell programming	Write arguments to standard output	Version 2 AT&T UNIX
ed	Text processing	The standard text editor	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
env	Misc	Set the environment for command invocation	System III
ex	Text processing	Text editor	1BSD
expand	Text processing	Convert tabs to spaces	3BSD
expr	Shell programming	Evaluate arguments as an expression	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
false	Shell programming	Return false value	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
fc	Misc	Process the command history list	
fg	Process management	Run jobs in the foreground	
file	Filesystem	Determine file type	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
			Version 1

find	Filesystem	Find files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
fold	Text processing	Filter for folding lines	1BSD
fort77	FORTRAN77 programming	FORTRAN compiler	XPG4
fuser	Process management	List process IDs of all processes that have one or more files open	System V
gencat	Misc	Generate a formatted message catalog	
get	SCCS	Get a version of an SCCS file	PWB UNIX
getconf	Misc	Get configuration values	
getopts	Shell programming	Parse utility options	
grep	Misc	Search text for a pattern	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
hash	Misc	hash database access method	
head	Text processing	Copy the first part of files	PWB UNIX
iconv	Text processing	Codeset conversion	HP-UX
id	Misc	Return user identity	4.4BSD
ipcrm	Misc	Remove a message queue, semaphore set, or shared memory segment identifier	System V
ipcs	Misc	Report interprocess communication facilities status	System V
jobs	Process management	Display status of jobs in the current session	
join	Text processing	Merges two sorted text files based on the presence of a common field	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
kill	Process management	Terminate or signal processes	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
lex	C programming	Generate programs for lexical tasks	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
link	Filesystem	Create a hard link to a file	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
ln	Filesystem	Link files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
locale	Misc	Get locale-specific information	
localedef	Misc	Define locale environment	
logger	Shell programming	Log messages	4.3BSD
logname	Misc	Return the user's login name	4.4BSD
lp	Text processing	Send files to a printer	System V
ls	Filesystem	List directory contents	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
m4	Misc	Macro processor	PWB UNIX
mailx	Misc	Process messages	Version 1 AT&T UNIX

make	Programming	Maintain, update, and regenerate groups of programs	PWB UNIX
man	Misc	Display system documentation	Version 2 AT&T UNIX
mesg	Misc	Permit or deny messages	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
mkdir	Filesystem	Make directories	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
mkfifo	Filesystem	Make FIFO special files	4.4BSD
more	Text processing	Display files on a page-by-page basis	3BSD
mv	Filesystem	Move files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
newgrp	Misc	Change to a new group (functionaliy similar to <code>sg</code> ^[1])	Version 6 AT&T UNIX
nice	Process management	Invoke a utility with an altered nice value	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
nl	Text processing	Line numbering filter	System III
nm	C programming	Write the name list of an object file	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
nohup	Process management	Invoke a utility immune to hangups	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
od	Misc	Dump files in various formats	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
paste	Text processing	Merge corresponding or subsequent lines of files	Version 32V AT&T UNIX
patch	Text processing	Apply changes to files	4.3BSD
pathchk	Filesystem	Check pathnames	
pax	Misc	Portable archive interchange	4.4BSD
pr	Text processing	Print files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
printf	Shell programming	Write formatted output	4.3BSD- Reno
prs	SCCS	Print an SCCS file	PWB UNIX
ps	Process management	Report process status	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
pwd	Filesystem	print working directory - Return working directory name	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
qalter	Batch utilities	Alter batch job	
qdel	Batch utilities	Delete batch jobs	
qhold	Batch utilities	Hold batch jobs	
qmove	Batch utilities	Move batch jobs	

qmsg	Batch utilities	Send message to batch jobs	
qrerun	Batch utilities	Rerun batch jobs	
qrls	Batch utilities	Release batch jobs	
qselect	Batch utilities	Select batch jobs	
qsig	Batch utilities	Signal batch jobs	
qstat	Batch utilities	Show status of batch jobs	
qsub	Batch utilities	Submit a script	
read	Shell programming	Read a line from standard input	
renice	Process management	Set nice values of running processes	4BSD
rm	Filesystem	Remove directory entries	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
rmDEL	SCCS	Remove a delta from an SCCS file	PWB UNIX
rmdir	Filesystem	Remove directories, if they are empty.	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
sact	SCCS	Print current SCCS file-editing activity	System III
sccs	SCCS	Front end for the SCCS subsystem	4.3BSD
sed	Text processing	Stream editor	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
sh	Shell programming	Shell, the standard command language interpreter	Version 7 AT&T UNIX (in earlier versions, sh was either the Thompson shell or the PWB shell)
sleep	Shell programming	Suspend execution for an interval	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
sort	Text processing	Sort, merge, or sequence check text files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
split	Misc	Split files into pieces	Version 3 AT&T UNIX
strings	C programming	Find printable strings in files	2BSD
strip	C programming	Remove unnecessary information from executable files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
stty	Misc	Set the options for a terminal	Version 2 AT&T UNIX
tabs	Misc	Set terminal tabs	PWB UNIX
tail	Text processing	Copy the last part of a file	PWB UNIX
talk	Misc	Talk to another user	4.2BSD
tee	Shell programming	Duplicate the standard output	Version 5 AT&T UNIX

			AT&T UNIX
test	Shell programming	Evaluate expression	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
time	Process management	Time a simple command	Version 3 AT&T UNIX
touch	Filesystem	Change file access and modification times	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
tput	Misc	Change terminal characteristics	System V
tr	Text processing	Translate characters	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
true	Shell programming	Return true value	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
tsort	Text processing	Topological sort	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
tty	Misc	Return user's terminal name	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
type	Misc	Displays how a name would be interpreted if used as a command	
ulimit	Misc	Set or report file size limit	
umask	Misc	Get or set the file mode creation mask	System III
unalias	Misc	Remove alias definitions	
uname	Misc	Return system name	PWB UNIX
uncompress	Misc	Expand compressed data	4.3BSD
unexpand	Text processing	Convert spaces to tabs	3BSD
unget	SCCS	Undo a previous get of an SCCS file	System III
uniq	Text processing	Report or filter out repeated lines in a file	Version 3 AT&T UNIX
unlink	Filesystem	Call the unlink function	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
uucp	Network	System-to-system copy	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
uudecode	Network	Decode a binary file	4BSD
uuencode	Network	Encode a binary file	4BSD
uustat	Network	uucp status inquiry and job control	System III
uux	Process management	Remote command execution	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
val	SCCS	Validate SCCS files	System III
vi	Text processing	Screen-oriented (visual) display editor	1BSD
wait	Process management	Await process completion	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
wc	Text processing	Line, word and byte or character count	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
what	SCCS	Identify SCCS files	PWB UNIX

who	System administration	Display who is on the system	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
write	Misc	Write to another user's terminal	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
xargs	Shell programming	Construct argument lists and invoke utility	PWB UNIX
yacc	C programming	Yet another compiler compiler	PWB UNIX
zcat	Text processing	Expand and concatenate data	4.3BSD

See also

- GNU Core Utilities
- List of GNOME applications
- List of GNU packages
- List of KDE applications
- List of Unix daemons
- List of web browsers for Unix and Unix-like operating systems
- Unix philosophy
- util-linux

Footnotes

- ↑ Stanfield, Vicki (2006). *Linux System Administration*. Craig Hunt Linux Library. Roderick W. Smith (2 ed.). John Wiley & Sons. p. 152. ISBN 9780782152203. Retrieved 2012-11-27. "The command `sg` is frequently a synonym for `newgrp`."

External links

- IEEE Std 1003.1,2004 specifications (http://opengroup.org/onlinpubs/000095399/)
- IEEE Std 1003.1,2008 specifications (http://opengroup.org/onlinpubs/9699919799/)
- Rosetta Stone For *Nix (http://bhami.com/rosetta.html) – configurable list of equivalent programs for *nix systems.
- The Unix Acronym List (http://roesler-ac.de/wolfram/acro/index.htm) – explains the names of many Unix commands.
- The UNIX System Homepage (http://unix.org/)



The Wikibook *Guide to UNIX* has a page on the topic of: ***Commands***



Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Unix cheatsheets***.

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