

LINUX SHELL COMMANDS CHEAT SHEET

Basic Navigation:

pwd - show current directory
ls - list files
ls -l - detailed list
ls -la - include hidden files
cd directory - change directory
cd ~ - go home
cd .. - go up one level
cd - - go to previous directory

File Operations:

touch filename - create empty file
mkdir dirname - create directory
mkdir -p path/to/dir - create nested directories
cp source dest - copy file
cp -r source dest - copy directory
mv source dest - move or rename
rm filename - delete file
rm -r dirname - delete directory
rmdir dirname - remove empty directory

View Files:

cat filename - show entire file
less filename - view page by page
head filename - show first 10 lines
head -20 filename - show first 20 lines
tail filename - show last 10 lines
tail -f filename - follow file changes

Redirection:

command > file - save output to file
command >> file - append output to file
command1 | command2 - pipe output
command 2>&1 - redirect errors too

Wildcards:

* - match any characters
? - match single character

[abc] - match a, b, or c
[a-z] - match lowercase letters

Help

man command - manual for the command
command --help - help to use the command
whatis command - description of the command
which command - location of the command

Search and Process Text:

grep pattern file - search for text
grep -i pattern file - case insensitive search
grep -r pattern dir - search in directory
wc filename - count words/lines
sort filename - sort lines
uniq filename - remove duplicates

Change Permissions:

chmod 755 filename - set permissions (rwxr-xr-x)
chmod +x filename - add execute permission
chmod -w filename - remove write permission
chmod u+rwx filename - user read/write/execute
chmod g+rw filename - group read/write
chmod o-r filename - remove others read

Permission Numbers:

r (read) = 4
w (write) = 2
x (execute) = 1

Common combinations:

755 = rwxr-xr-x (owner full, others read/execute)
644 = rw-r--r-- (owner read/write, others read only)
777 = rwxrwxrwx (full permissions for all)

User Info:

whoami - current username
id - user and group IDs
who - who is logged in
w - detailed user activity

Process Management:

ps - show processes
ps aux - detailed process list
top - real-time process monitor
htop - better process monitor
jobs - show background jobs
bg - put job in background
fg - bring job to foreground
kill PID - kill process by ID
kill -9 PID - force kill process
killall processname - kill all processes by name
nohup command & - run command in background

Debian/Ubuntu (apt):

sudo apt update - update package list
sudo apt upgrade - upgrade packages
sudo apt install pkg - install package
sudo apt remove pkg - remove package
sudo apt search pkg - search for package

Red Hat/CentOS (yum):

sudo yum update - update packages
sudo yum install pkg - install package
sudo yum remove pkg - remove package
sudo yum search pkg - search packages

Network Tools:

ping hostname - test connectivity
ping -c 4 hostname - ping 4 times
wget url - download file
curl url - get data from server
ifconfig - network interface info
ip addr show - show IP addresses
netstat -tuln - show listening ports

File Transfer: scp file user@host:path - copy to remote server
scp user@host:file . - copy from remote server
rsync -av source dest - sync directories

System Details:

uname -a - system information
uname -r - kernel version

uptime - system uptime
date - current date/time
cal - calendar
history - command history

Disk and Memory:

df -h - disk space usage
du -h directory - directory size
free -h - memory usage
lsblk - list storage devices

Hardware:

lscpu - CPU information
lsusb - USB devices
lspci - PCI devices

Find Files:

find /path -name "*.txt" - find files by name
find /path -type f - find files only
find /path -size +100M - find large files
locate filename - fast file search
which command - find command location

Service Management:

sudo systemctl start service - start service
sudo systemctl stop service - stop service
sudo systemctl status service - check service status
sudo systemctl enable service - enable at boot

View Logs:

sudo tail -f /var/log/syslog - follow system log
sudo journalctl -f - follow journal