

Finding Linux Documentation

1. Important Linux documentation sources include:
 - The man pages (short for manual pages)
 - GNU Info
 - The help command and --help option

The man pages:

1. The man pages are the most often-used source of Linux documentation.
2. They provide in-depth documentation about many programs and utilities, as well as other topics, including configuration files, and programming APIs for system calls, library routines, and the kernel.
3. They are present on all Linux distributions and are always at your fingertips.
4. Typing man with a topic name as an argument retrieves the information stored in the topic's man pages.

man:

1. The man program searches, formats, and displays the information contained in the man page system.
2. A given topic may have multiple pages associated with it and there is a default order determining which one is displayed when no options or section number is specified
3. To list all pages on the topic, use -f option.
4. To list all pages that discuss a specified topic (even if the specified subject is not present in the name), use the -k option.
 - **man -f** generates the same result as typing **whatis**.
 - **man -k** generates the same result as typing **apropos**.

Manual Chapters:

1. The man pages are divided into chapters numbered 1 through 9
2. In some cases, a letter is appended to the chapter number to identify a specific topic.
3. For example, many pages describing part of the X Window API are in chapter 3X.
4. With the -a parameter, man will display all pages with the given name in all chapters, one after the other, as in:
man -a socket

GNU Info:

1. This is the GNU project's standard documentation format, which it prefers as an alternative to man.
2. The Info System is basically free-form, and supports linked subsections.
3. Typing info with no arguments in a terminal window displays an index of available topics.
4. You can browse through the topic list using the regular movement keys: arrows, Page Up, and Page Down.
5. You can view help for a particular topic by typing info <topic name>.
6. The system then searches for the topic in all available info files.

7. Some useful keys are: q to quit, h for help, and Enter to select a menu item.

info Page Structure:

1. The topic which you view in an info page is called a node.
2. The table lists the basic keystrokes for moving between nodes.
3. Nodes are essentially sections and subsections in the documentation.
4. You can move between nodes or view each node sequentially. Each node may contain menus and linked subtopics, or items.
5. Items function like browser links and are identified by an asterisk (*) at the beginning of the item name.
6. Named items (outside a menu) are identified with double-colons (::) at the end of the item name.
7. Items can refer to other nodes within the file or to other files.

Key	Function
n	Go to the next node
p	Go to the previous node
u	Move one node up in the index

The --help Option:

1. Most commands have an available short description which can be viewed using the --help or the -h option along with the command or application.
2. For example, to learn more about the man command, you can type:
man -help
3. The --help option is useful as a quick reference and it displays information faster than the man or info pages.

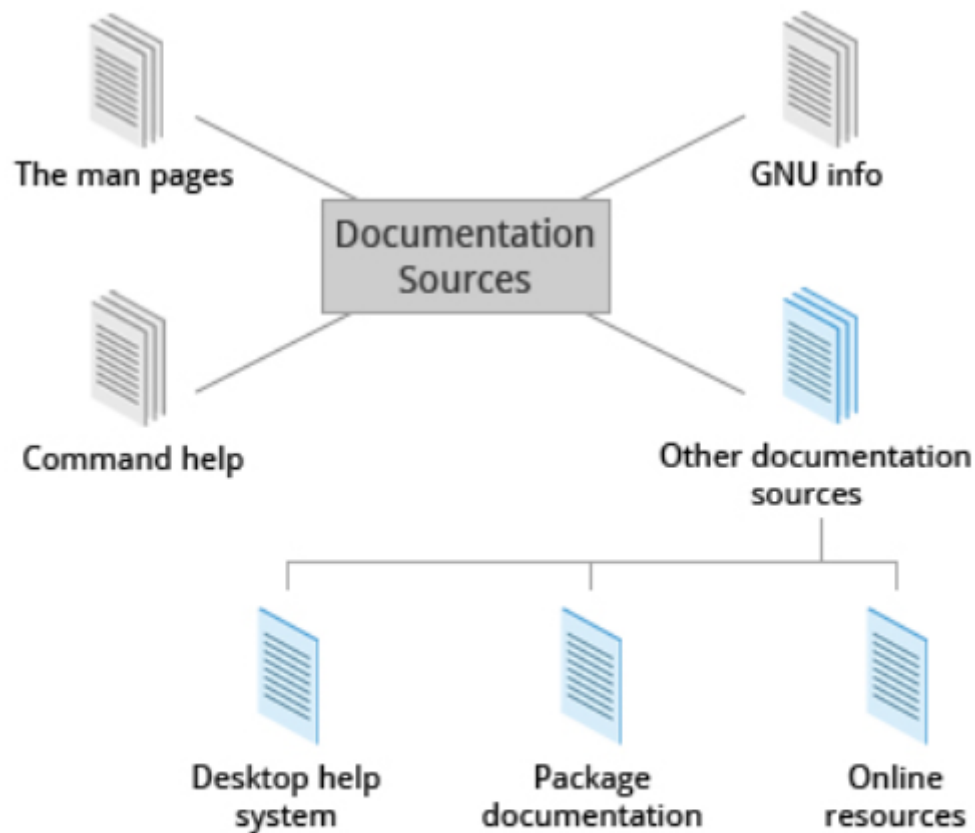
The help Command:

1. When run within a bash command shell, some popular commands (such as echo and cd) actually run especially built-in bash versions of the commands rather than the usual binaries found on the file system, say under /bin or /usr/bin.
2. To view a synopsis of these built-in commands, you can simply type help as shown in the screenshot.
3. For these built-in commands, help performs the same basic function as the -h and --help arguments perform for standalone programs.

Other Documentation Sources:

1. In addition to the man pages, the GNU Info System, and the help command, there are other sources of Linux documentation, some examples of which include:

- Desktop help system
- Package documentation
- Online resources.



Other Documentation Sources

- 2.