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Gaurav has done Masters in Computer applications(MCA) and is working in Software development field for more than 7 years in Java/J2EE technologies. He is currently working with one of top MNC. He has worked on various frameworks like Struts, Spring, JSF, Velocity, iBatis, MyBatis, Hibernate, Junit, Dozer. He likes to explore new technologies and share his thoughts by writing technical blog. He is founder of [JavaSolutionsGilde.blogspot.com](#).



Top 25 Unix Commands With Examples

Posted by: [Gaurav Bhardwaj](#) in [Unix](#) on December 13th, 2017

Hello Friends,

In this tutorial, you will learn top Unix commands which are handy in day to day work, specially from Java developer point of view.

1. How to create a new file in Unix

touch <fileName>

Example : touch abc.txt

2. How to see content of file in Unix (without able to edit)

cat <FileName>

Example : cat abc.txt

3. How to open file in editor mode

vi <File Name>

Example : vi abc.txt

4. How to edit File and add content in File in Unix

a) Open file with following command

vi abc.txt

b) Press I, it will bring file in edit mode.

c) Type whatever you enter in file.

d) Type :wq! and enter. This will save content you entered in file.

5. How to find a File/Directory with name starting with particular character in Unix

ls -ltr | grep <character>*

Example : Find file/directory starting with name "ab"

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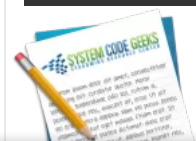
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- 3 – write and execute
- 4 – read only
- 5 – read and execute
- 6 – read and write
- 7 – read, write and execute

By default,when we create a File in Unix ,it is created with permission 666(read/write).

By default,when we create a Directory in Unix,it is created with permission 777(read/write/execute).

Along with numeric notation,Unix permissions can also be represented by following characters:

Reference	Class	Description
u	user	the owner of the file
g	group	users who are members of the file's group
o	others	users who are not the owner of the file or members of the group
a	all	all three of the above, is the same as ugo
r	read	read a file or list a directory's contents
w	write	write to a file or directory
x	execute	execute a file

6.1. How to make File read only in Unix

chmod <permission> <fileName>

Example : chmod 400 abc.txt

6.2. How to give File Read/Write Permissions in Unix

chmod <Permission> <FileName>

Example : chmod 777 abc.txt

7. How to find list of all the links in a directory in Unix

ls -lrt | grep "^l"

^ – This signifies start of each line

l – Each symbolic link has "l" in the beginning of line like below :

```
lrwxrwxrwx 1 gg99a weblog 3 Dec 9 22:20 latest -> 1.3
```

So this command prints all lines from result of ls -lrt,which starts with "l" and all symolic link's lines start with "l",hence the result.

8. How to see content of current directory

ls

This will not give details about Files or directories.

9. How to see content of current directory with details such as

- the exact size of the file
- who owns the file
- who has the right to look at it
- when it was last modified.

ls -lrt

10. How to see all files including the ones whose filenames begin in a dot



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13. How to kill a process

kill <ProcessId>

14. How to see current date in Unix

date

15. How to see History of commands executed

history

Using only "history" will give you all the commands executed in current session.

If you want to see specific type of command, use grep along with history as below :

For example, if you have executed command to create directory multiple times, you can execute history command as below. It will list mkdir command all the times you have executed previously in current session.

history | grep mk

16. How to clear the console in Unix

clear

17. How to check ,how much space is left on the current drive in Unix

df -h

18. How to see which process is taking how much time in Unix

top

Press shift + O to get all options by which you can sort. For example, to sort by PID, press 'a' and then press any key. It will sort all the processes by PID.

19. How to copy File from one host to another in Unix

When you are sending files from current machine to remote machine

scp <current machine path to file, which we want to send to remote machine> user@remote machine:/remote path

Example : scp /var/log/was/abc.txt GA99@test.com:/var/log/remoteDirectory

When you want to retrieve file(s) from remote machine

scp user@remote machine:/remote path to file <current machine path where we want to download the file>

Example : scp user@remote machine:/var/log/remoteDirectory/abc.txt /var/log/was

20. How to find ,how many times a word is there in File

grep -c <word to find> <FileName>

Example : grep -c Hi abc.txt

Above command will give count of word Hi in File abc.txt.

21. How to execute previously executed command in Unix

!<Previous Command>****

This is really handy when your command includes lots of parameters and options. You need not type all those parameters and options again with this shorthand.

Example : Say I executed following command:

ls -lrt | grep abc

Now I want to execute this command again, I just have to type following to execute above command again :

!!s

22. How to find all the files with certain content in Unix

find . -name <type of files to be searched> | xargs grep <content to be matched>

Example :

find . -name "*.txt" | xargs grep "Hi"

23. How to find file(s) which have been modified since last day, today or more than 1 day

23.1) Find all files in current directory and sub directories which has been modified exactly 1 day back.



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Example : `ln -s latest 1.0`

So here you are pointing latest softlink to directory 1.0

24. How to update Soft link in Unix

`ln -nsf <New directory> <Soft link>`

Example : Say you want to point latest now to new directory 1.1, then you will execute following command :

`ln -nsf 1.1 latest`

25. How to remove Soft link in Unix

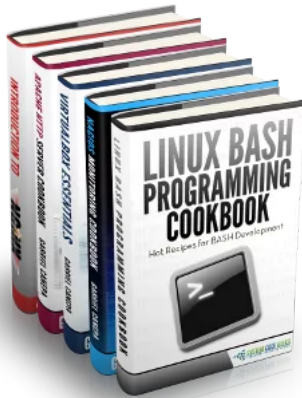
`rm <Softlink name>`

That's it for today.

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