

Linux+ CertMaster Perform 8.0

1.1.5 Basic Bash Commands

There are many **Bash** commands. Some of the most often-used commands deal with file management functions, such as displaying files and file contents, moving from one directory (or folder) to another, or editing files.



It is customary in Linux to refer to folders as "directories."

Common Bash Commands

The following commands are typical of the Bash **syntax** and allow you to begin working with the files and directories that make up Linux. You will use these commands throughout this course, and they will quickly become familiar.

- The `ls` command lists the contents of the current directory.
 - **Example command with argument:** `ls /tmp` Lists the contents of the `/tmp` directory.
- The `touch` command creates a new empty file, or updates the timestamp on an existing file.
 - **Example command with argument:** `touch newfile.txt` Creates a new file named `newfile.txt`.
- The `cd` command changes from one directory to another.
 - **Example command with argument:** `cd /etc` Changes the current directory to the `/etc` directory.
- The `cat` command displays the contents of a text file on the screen.
 - **Example command with argument:** `cat data.txt` Displays the contents of the `data.txt` file.
- The `less` command displays the contents of a file in windows that fit on the screen.
 - **Example command with argument:** `less data.txt` Displays the contents of the `data.txt` file one screen at a time when the file would not normally fit on one screen.

- The `tree` command displays the directory structure in a tree format.
 - **Example command with argument:** `tree /etc` Displays the subdirectories and files in the `/etc` directory in a tree structure.
- The `shutdown` command shuts down the system.
 - **Example command with two options:** `shutdown -r now` Restarts the system immediately after shutdown.

Two common commands do not use arguments to generate an output. Use `whoami` to display the current user, and use `pwd` to display the present working directory.

Common Commands



▼ Description

Command line interface showing the output of `ls`, `pwd`, `whoami`, and `touch` commands.

The number of Bash commands can be overwhelming. Start by using a few commands at a time, and make them a habit. The longer you work with Linux, the more comfortable you'll become with the commands.