Basic Linux Commands

Command	Description
awk	"Aho, Weinberger and Kernigan", Bell Labs, 1970s. Interpreted programming language for text processing.
awk -F	(see above) + Set the field separator.
cat	Display the contents of a file at the command line, is also used to copy and or append text files into a document. Named after its function to con-cat-enate files.
cd	Change the current working directory. Also known as chdir (change directory).
cd /	Change the current directory to root directory.
cd ..	Change the current directory to parent directory.
cd ~	Change the current directory to your home directory.
cp	Make copies of files and directories.
cp -r	Copy directories recursively.
cut	Drop sections of each line of input by bytes, characters, or fields, separated by a delimiter (the tab character by default).

Command	Description
cut -d -f	-d is for delimiter instead of tab character, -f select only those fields (ex.: "cut -d "," -f1 multilined_file.txt" - will mean that we select only the first field from each comma-separated line in the file)
du	Estimate (and display) the file space usage - space used under a particular directory or files on a file system.
df	Display the amount of available disk space being used by file systems.
df -h	Use human readable format.
free	Display the total amount of free and used memory (use vm_stat instead on MacOS).
free -m	Display the amount of memory in megabytes.
free -g	Display the amount of memory in gigabytes.
grep	Process text and print any lines which match a regular expression ("global regular expression print")
head	Print the beginning of a text file or piped data. By default, outputs the first 10 lines of its input to the command line.
head -n	Output the first n lines of input data (ex.: "head -5 multilined_file.txt").
kill	Send a signal to kill a process. The default signal for kill is TERM (which will terminate the process).

Command	Description
less	Is similar to more, but has the extended capability of allowing both forward and backward navigation through the file.
ls	List the contents of a directory.
ls -l	List the contents of a directory + use a long format, displaying Unix file types, permissions, number of hard links, owner, group, size, last-modified date and filename.
ls -lh	List the contents of a directory + print sizes in human readable format. (e.g. 1K, 234M, 2G, etc.)
ls -lS	Sort by file size
man	Display the manual pages which provide documentation about commands, system calls, library routines and the kernel.
mkdir	Create a directory on a file system ("make directory")
more	Display the contents of a text file one screen at a time.
mv	Rename files or directories or move them to a different directory.
nice	Run a command with a modified scheduling priority.
ps	Provide information about the currently running processes, including their process identification numbers (PIDs) ("process status").
ps a	Select all processes except both session leaders and

Command	Description
	processes not associated with a terminal.
pwd	Abbreviated from "print working directory", pwd writes the full pathname of the current working directory.
rm	Remove files or directories.
rm -r	Remove directories and their contents recursively.
sort	Sort the contents of a text file.
sort -r	Sort the output in the reverse order. Reverse means - to reverse the result of comparsions
sort -k	-k or --key=POS1[,POS2] Start a key at POS1 (origin 1), end it at POS2 (default end of the line) (ex.: "sort -k2,2 multilined_file.txt").
sort -n	Compare according to string numerical value.
tail	Print the tail end of a text file or piped data. Be default, outputs the last 10 lines of its input to the command line.
tail -n	Output the last n lines of input data (ex.: "tail -2 multilined_file.txt").
top	Produce an ordered list of running processes selected by user-specified criteria, and updates it periodically.
touch	Update the access date and or modification date of a file or directory or create an empty file.

Command	Description
tr	Replace or remove specific characters in its input data set ("translate").
tr -d	Delete characters, do not translate.
vim	Is a text editor ("vi improved"). It can be used for editing any kind of text and is especially suited for editing computer programs.
wc	Print a count of lines, words and bytes for each input file ("word count")
wc -c	Print only the number of characters.
wc -l	Print only the number of lines.