

# Kali Linux Commands (A-Z)

## A

apropos : Search Help manual pages (man -k)  
apt-get : Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)  
aptitude : Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)  
aspell : Spell Checker  
awk : Find and Replace text, database sort/validate/index

## B

basename : Strip directory and suffix from filenames  
bash : GNU Bourne-Again SHell  
bc : Arbitrary precision calculator language  
bg : Send to background  
break : Exit from a loop  
builtin : Run a shell builtin  
bzip2 : Compress or decompress named file(s)

## C

cal : Display a calendar  
case : Conditionally perform a command  
cat : Concatenate and print (display) the content of files  
cd : Change Directory  
cfdisk : Partition table manipulator for Linux  
chgrp : Change group ownership  
chmod : Change access permissions  
chown : Change file owner and group  
chroot : Run a command with a different root directory  
chkconfig : System services (runlevel)  
cksum : Print CRC checksum and byte counts  
clear : Clear terminal screen  
cmp : Compare two files  
comm : Compare two sorted files line by line  
command : Run a command - ignoring shell functions •  
continue : Resume the next iteration of a loop •  
cp : Copy one or more files to another location  
cron : Daemon to execute scheduled commands  
crontab : Schedule a command to run at a later time  
csplit : Split a file into context-determined pieces  
cut : Divide a file into several parts

## D

date : Display or change the date & time  
dc : Desk Calculator  
dd : Convert and copy a file, write disk headers, boot records  
ddrescue : Data recovery tool  
declare : Declare variables and give them attributes •  
df : Display free disk space  
diff : Display the differences between two files  
diff3 : Show differences among three files  
dig : DNS lookup  
dir : Briefly list directory contents  
dircolors : Colour setup for 'ls'  
dirname : Convert a full pathname to just a path  
dirs : Display list of remembered directories  
dmesg : Print kernel & driver messages  
du : Estimate file space usage

## E

echo : Display message on screen •  
egrep : Search file(s) for lines that match an extended expression  
eject : Eject removable media  
enable : Enable and disable builtin shell commands •  
env : Environment variables  
ethtool : Ethernet card settings  
eval : Evaluate several commands/arguments  
exec : Execute a command  
exit : Exit the shell  
expect : Automate arbitrary applications accessed over a terminal  
expand : Convert tabs to spaces  
export : Set an environment variable  
expr : Evaluate expressions

## F

false : Do nothing, unsuccessfully  
fdformat : Low-level format a floppy disk  
fdisk : Partition table manipulator for Linux  
fg : Send job to foreground  
fgrep : Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string  
file : Determine file type  
find : Search for files that meet a desired criteria  
fmt : Reformat paragraph text  
fold : Wrap text to fit a specified width.  
for : Expand words, and execute commands  
format : Format disks or tapes  
free : Display memory usage  
fsck : File system consistency check and repair  
ftp : File Transfer Protocol  
function : Define Function Macros  
fuser : Identify/kill the process that is accessing a file

## G

gawk : Find and Replace text within file(s)  
getopts : Parse positional parameters  
grep : Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern  
groupadd : Add a user security group  
groupdel : Delete a group  
groupmod : Modify a group  
groups : Print group names a user is in  
gzip : Compress or decompress named file(s)

## H

hash : Remember the full pathname of a name argument  
head : Output the first part of file(s)  
help : Display help for a built-in command  
history : Command History  
hostname : Print or set system name

## I

iconv : Convert the character set of a file  
id : Print user and group id's  
if : Conditionally perform a command  
ifconfig : Configure a network interface  
ifdown : Stop a network interface  
ifup : Start a network interface up  
import : Capture an X server screen and save the image to file  
install : Copy files and set attributes

## J

jobs : List active jobs  
join : Join lines on a common field

## K

kill : Stop a process from running  
killall : Kill processes by name

## L

less : Display output one screen at a time  
let : Perform arithmetic on shell variables  
ln : Create a symbolic link to a file  
local : Create variables  
locate : Find files  
logname : Print current login name  
logout : Exit a login shell  
look : Display lines beginning with a given string  
lpc : Line printer control program  
lpr : Off line print  
lprint : Print a file  
lprintd : Abort a print job  
lprintq : List the print queue  
lprm : Remove jobs from the print queue  
ls : List information about file(s)  
lsaf : List open files

## M

make : Recompile a group of programs  
man : Help manual  
mkdir : Create new folder(s)  
mkfifo : Make FIFOs (named pipes)  
mkisofs : Create an hybrid ISO9660/JOLIET/HFS filesystem  
mknod : Make block or character special files  
more : Display output one screen at a time  
mount : Mount a file system  
mttools : Manipulate MS-DOS files  
mtr : Network diagnostics (traceroute/ping)  
mv : Move or rename files or directories  
mmv : Mass Move and rename (files)

## N

netstat : Networking information  
nice : Set the priority of a command or job  
nl : Number lines and write files  
nohup : Run a command immune to hangups  
notify-send : Send desktop notifications  
nslookup : Query Internet name servers interactively

## O

open : Open a file in its default application  
op : Operator access

## P

passwd : Modify a user password  
paste : Merge lines of files  
pathchk : Check file name portability  
ping : Test a network connection  
pkill : Stop processes from running  
popd : Restore the previous value of the current directory  
pr : Prepare files for printing  
printcap : Printer capability database  
printenv : Print environment variables  
printf : Format and print data  
ps : Process status  
pushd : Save and then change the current directory  
pwd : Print Working Directory

## Q

quota : Display disk usage and limits  
quotacheck : Scan a file system for disk usage  
quotactl : Set disk quotas

## T

tail : Output the last part of file  
tar : Tape ARchiver  
tee : Redirect output to multiple files  
test : Evaluate a conditional expression  
time : Measure Program running time  
times : User and system times  
touch : Change file timestamps  
top : List processes running on the system  
traceroute : Trace Route to Host  
trap : Run a command when a signal is set(bourne)  
tr : Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters  
true : Do nothing, successfully  
tsort : Topological sort  
tty : Print filename of terminal on stdin  
type : Describe a command

## U

ulimit : Limit user resources  
umask : Users file creation mask  
umount : Unmount a device  
unalias : Remove an alias  
uname : Print system information  
unexpand : Convert spaces to tabs  
uniq : Uniquify files  
units : Convert units from one scale to another  
unset : Remove variable or function names  
unshar : Unpack shell archive scripts  
until : Execute commands (until error)  
uptime : Show uptime  
useradd : Create new user account  
userdel : Delete a user account  
usermod : Modify user account  
users : List users currently logged in  
uueencode : Encode a binary file  
uudecode : Decode a file created by uueencode

## V

v : Verbosely list directory contents ('ls -l -b')  
vdir : Verbosely list directory contents ('ls -l -b')  
vi : Text Editor  
vmstat : Report virtual memory statistics

## W

wait : Wait for a process to complete  
watch : Execute/display a program periodically  
wc : Print byte, word, and line counts  
whereis : Search the user's \$path, man pages and source files for a program  
which : Search the user's \$path for a program file  
while : Execute commands  
who : Print all usernames currently logged in  
whoami : Print the current user id and name ('id -un')  
wget : Retrieve web pages or files via HTTP, HTTPS or FTP  
write : Send a message to another user

## X

xargs : Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)  
xdg-open : Open a file or URL in the user's preferred application.