Linux Top 50 Commands

1. pwd Command

The pwd command is used to display the location of the current working directory.

Syntax:
pwd

Output:
shaily@Shaily:~$ pwd
/home/shaily

2. mkdir Command

The mkdir command is used to create a new directory under any directory.

Syntax:
mkdir <directory name>

Output:
shaily@Shaily:~$ mkdir Shaily

3. rmdir Command

The rmdir command is used to delete a directory.

Syntax:

rmdir <directory name>

Output:
shaily@Shaily:~$ rmdir Shaily

4. ls Command

The ls command is used to display a list of content of a directory.

Syntax:
ls

‘ls -al’ gives detailed information of the files. The command provides information in a columnar format. The columns contain the following information:

1st Column

File type and access permissions

2nd Column

# of HardLinks to the File

3rd Column

Owner and the creator of the file

4th Column

Group of the owner

5th Column

File size in Bytes

6th Column

Date and Time

7th Column

Directory or File name

5. cd Command

The cd command is used to change the current directory.

Syntax:

cd <directory name>

FILE COMMANDS

6. touch Command

The touch command is used to create empty files. We can create multiple empty files by executing it once.

Syntax:

touch <file name>
touch <file1> <file2> ....

7. cat Command

The cat command is a multi-purpose utility in the Linux system. It can be used to create a file, display content of the file, copy the content of one file to another file, and more.

Syntax:

cat [OPTION]... [FILE]..
To create a file, execute it as follows:

cat > <file name>
// Enter file content

Press "CTRL+ D" keys to save the file. To display the content of the file, execute it as follows:

cat <file name>

8. rm Command

The rm command is used to remove a file.

Syntax:

rm <file name>

9. cp Command

The cp command is used to copy a file or directory.

Syntax:

To copy in the same directory:

cp <same file name> <same file name>

To copy in a different directory:
cp <existing file name> <new file name>

10. mv Command

The mv command is used to move a file or a directory form one location to another location.

Syntax:

mv <file name> <directory path>

11. rename Command

The rename command is used to rename files. It is useful for renaming a large group of files.

Syntax:

rename 's/old-name/new-name/' files
For example, to convert all the text files into pdf files, execute the below command:

rename 's/\.txt$/\.pdf/' *.txt

FILE CONTENT COMMANDS

12. head Command

The head command is used to display the content of a file. It displays the first 10 lines of a file.

Syntax:

head <file name>

13. tail Command

The tail command is similar to the head command. The difference between both commands is that it displays the last ten lines of the file content. It is useful for reading the error message.

Syntax:

tail <file name>

14. tac Command

The tac command is the reverse of cat command, as its name specified. It displays the file content in reverse order (from the last line).

Syntax:

tac <file name>

15. comm Command

The 'comm' command is used to compare two files or streams. By default, it displays three columns, first displays non-matching items of the first file, second indicates the non-matching item of the second file, and the third column displays the matching items of both files.

Syntax:

comm <file1> <file2>

16. wc Command

The wc command is used to count the lines, words, and characters in a file.

Syntax:

wc <file name>

17. sort Command

The sort command is used to sort files in alphabetical order.

Syntax:

sort <file name>

18. date Command

The date command is used to display date, time, time zone, and more.

Syntax:

date

19. cal Command

The cal command is used to display the current month's calendar with the current date highlighted.

Syntax:

cal

20. clear Command

Linux clear command is used to clear the terminal screen.

Syntax:

clear