

Linux Essentials

Command Line Cheat Sheet

&& – and

|| – or

apropos – returns all documentation containing the defined command

bzip/bunzip – bzip; compresses files

cat – outputs the contents of a file

cd – change directory

chmod – change file mode

chown – change ownership

clear – clears the screen

cp – copy

- f** Force; will overwrite any existing files with the same name
- i** Interactive; will ask to overwrite
- p** Preserves file ownership
- r** Recursive; will copy files under directories
- a** Archive; preserve symlinks
- u** Copy only if original file is newer

cut – manipulate data by columns

- c** Range to cut [-c2-4]
- d** Define a delimiter to use with fields
- f** Return the numbered field

dig – look up IP addresses and DNS names

env – show environmental variables for current user

exit – terminates all current processes, including shell

find – locate file in system

- .** Search in current directory

finger – used to find out information regarding a user

free – reports on system memory

grep – search for string

- i** Case insensitive

-n Include line number in output

groupadd – add group

-g Group ID

-p Password

-r Create system group

groupmod – modify group

-g GID

-p Password

gzip/gunzip – gzip; compresses files

head – output the first ten lines of a file

halt – shuts down operating system

id – outputs user and group IDs for a user

-u Show only UID

-g Show only GID

-G Show all groups to which a user belongs

-Gn Group name

if – conditional statements in bash scripting

-d See if directory exists

-e See if file exists

-f See if file exists and it is a regular file

-G See if file exists and it is owned by a defined group

-h See if file exists and it is symlinked

-L See if file exists and it is symlinked (same as **-h**)

-O See if file exists and it is owned by defined UID

-r See if file exists and has read permissions

-w See if file exists and had write permissions

-x See if file can be executed

ifconfig – shows NIC for network card; configures network settings

info – improved manual pages

init 0 – shuts down operating system

init 6 – reboots the operating system

ip addr – replaces **ifconfig** on newer systems

last – shows last command used by defined user

less – opens file in a vim-like environment for viewing

ln – link files

-s Create symbolic link

ls – list contents of directory

-a List all files, including hidden files
-l List files, including details such as owner and permissions
-p Adds a / to the end of directories
-R Enable recursion, including all sub-directories

man – manual pages

1 Executable programs and shell commands
2 System calls for the kernel
3 Library calls
4 Device files
5 File formats
6 Games
7 Misc.
8 Programs only run by the root user
9 Kernel routines
-k Returns all documentation containing search keyword (apropos)

mv – move; used to move or rename files

-m Set permissions mode
-p Force recursion

netstat – shows network status

-a All listening and non-listening sockets
-i Network interface statistics
-l Listening sockets
-s Summary of each protocol

passwd – change/set password

-S View password settings
-l Locks account
-u Unlocks account
-d Remove password
-n Set days before password change
-x Set maximum days before password change
-w Days to warn prior to password reset
-i Days to wait after expired password to disable account

ping – test connectivity of remote network device

ps – process status

-u Define user

pwck – verifies the integrity of the password files

pwconv – syncs /etc/passwd and /etc/shadow

pwd – print working directory

reboot - shuts down, then restarts the system

route - view routing tables

set - similar to env; works with environment variables

sort - sorts text in file

-r Sort in reverse order

-n Sort numerically

su - substitute user

sudo - run command as root

tail - outputs the last ten lines of a file

rm - remove

-r Enable recursion

rmdir - remove directory

shutdown - shuts down the system

-H Halts the machine

-P Power off

-r Reboot

-h Equivalent to powering off, overridden by --halt

-k Send warning, but perform no actions

-c Cancel a shutdown

su - substitute user

tar - archives files

-cf Create file

-xf Extract file

-v Verbose

-zcf Archive with gzip

-jcf Archive with bzip2

top - shows list of current applications/processes, and system usage

h Help

k Input process ID to kill

r Change process priority

p Sort by CPU usage

m Sort by memory usage

touch - created empty file

-c Will not create file if one exists; will update timestamp

-d Manually set timestamp; can be used with directories

traceroute - traces the route a packet takes

uname - returns information related to the system

- s Displays kernel name
- n Displays hostname
- r Kernel release number
- v Kernel version number
- m Hardware architecture
- p Processor architecture
- i Hardware platform
- o Operating system
- a All information

useradd - adds new user

- D Outputs defaults
- c Comment
- e When to expire account
- f Number of days after password expiration to disable account
- g Default group
- G Additional groups
- M Do not create home directory
- m Set home directory
- p Define password
- r Create system user
- s Set default shell
- u Define UID

userdel - delete user

- r Delete home folder

usermod - modify user account

- c Comment
- e Expire date
- f Days after password expiration to disable account
- G Add groups
- l Change username
- L Lock account
- m Move home directory
- p Change password
- u Set user ID
- U Unlock account

w - displays user system information

wc - word count

- w Count words
- c Count characters

whatis - returns available man pages for command

which - shows location of application

who - displays who is logged in

- b** Last boot time of machine
- m** Hostname and associated user
- r** Run level for current user
- q** Number of logged-in users
- a** All

whoami - outputs username of current user

zip/unzip - zip; compresses files