When you connect to a remote server using SSH (port 22), you are essentially logging into a full shell (like bash, sh, zsh) on that remote machine. This means:

You can execute all the Linux commands available on that remote system, depending on your user permissions.

Understanding SSH Session

When you SSH into a server:

bash

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ssh username@target_ip

You're accessing:

- A shell on the remote system
- With the **privileges of the user** you're logged in as (e.g., normal user vs. root)

You're **not limited to special SSH-only commands** — you get full terminal access (like using your own terminal).

✓ Common Categories of Commands Usable Over SSH

Here's a categorized list of **commonly available commands** once you're inside SSH:

• Filesystem Navigation

bash

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pwd # Print working directory

Is # List files

cd # Change directory

tree # Visualize directory structure

stat # Show detailed file info

• File Management

bash

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cp file1 file2 # Copy

mv file1 file2 # Move/Rename

rm file # Remove file

mkdir folder # Create directory

rmdir folder # Delete empty directory

touch file # Create empty file

nano/vim/cat/less file # View/edit file

User Management

bash

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whoami # Show current user

id # Show user & group info

who # Who is logged in

w # Who is using the system

adduser username # Add user (if root)

passwd username # Change password

System Info

bash

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uname -a # Kernel version

uptime # System uptime

df -h # Disk space

du -sh * # Directory sizes

top/htop # Running processes

free -h # RAM info

cat /etc/os-release # OS info

Package Management (depends on distro)

Ubuntu/Debian:

bash

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apt update

apt install <package>

apt list --installed

CentOS/RHEL:

bash

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yum install <package>

dnf update

Networking Tools

bash

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ifconfig / ip a # Show IP addresses

ping 8.8.8.8 # Ping test

netstat -tuln # Listening ports

ss -tuln # Modern netstat

nmap <target> # Scan ports (if installed)

curl <url> # Fetch content

wget <url> # Download file

Process Management

bash

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ps aux # Show processes

kill <PID> # Kill process

killall <name> # Kill by name

nohup command & # Run command in background

jobs, bg, fg # Job control

Service Management

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bash
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systemctl status <service>

systemctl start <service>

systemctl stop <service>

service <name> status # Older distros

Permission & Ownership

bash

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chmod 755 file # Change permissions

chown user:group file # Change ownership

ls -l # View permissions

Compression & Archiving

bash

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tar -czvf file.tar.gz folder/

tar -xzvf file.tar.gz

zip -r file.zip folder/

unzip file.zip

SSH-Specific Built-in Options (before connection)

Outside the SSH shell (from your machine):

bash

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ssh user@host # Basic SSH login

ssh user@host -p 2222 # Custom port

ssh -i key.pem user@host # Use private key

ssh user@host 'ls -la' # Run single command remotely

scp file user@host:/tmp/ # Copy file to server