Translation(s) : English - Français - Italiano - Brasileiro - 简体中文

The Console is commonly the well known black window in which the user can write in the command line. It is actually a very powerful tool which can complement the graphic utilities on the system.

The Console is often also known as the "Terminal" or "Shell". Technically, the Console is a combination of a "Terminal" and a "Shell". Usually the two terms are used as synonyms.

Contents

How to access the Console

In Debian, there are already six default virtual Consoles ready to be used. They all can be accessed using the key combination `Ctrl + Alt + FN#Console`. For example, the Console #3 is accessed by pressing `Ctrl + Alt + F3`.

Note The Console #7 is usually allocated to the graphical environment (Xorg, etc.).

Another method is to use a graphic display terminal within your desktop environment.

- Under GNOME: Applications> System Tools> Terminal
    or the keyboard shortcut Alt + F2 for "Run Application" and type "gnome-terminal"
- Under KDE K> System> Terminal (Konsole)

How to survive on the Linux Console

The usual shell commands are listed in [coreutils](#) and [ShellCommands](#).

This section lists a selection of useful and popular programs that run from the shell.

Generic tools

- [DebianPkg: screen](#) -- virtual tty that allows disconnection (for ssh or X-terminal)
- [DebianPkg: script](#) -- for logging of a console session
- [DebianPkg: mlocate](#) -- assists in finding files
- File manager
    - [DebianPkg: mc](#)

- Editors
    - [DebianPkg: nano](#) -- very small, very simple, very easy to use text editor
    - [DebianPkg: vim](#) and [DebPkg: vim-tiny](#) -- *The* Vi like editor.
    - [DebianPkg: emacs](#)
    - [DebianPkg: joe](#) -- can emulate WordStar keybindings (jstar)
- Shells

- DebianPkg: bash
- DebianPkg: tcsh
- DebianPkg: zsh
- Locking the console
  - DebianPkg: vlock
- Misc
  - DebianPkg: dict to look-up dictionaries
  - DebianPkg: linuxvnc to export console (VNC)

Communication / Internet

- Download
  - DebianPkg: wget
  - DebianPkg: curl
- Mail
  - DebianPkg: mutt -- all mail clients suck - this one sucks less
- WWW
  - DebianPkg: w3m
  - DebianPkg: lynx
  - DebianPkg: links
  - DebianPkg: elinks
- news
  - DebianPkg: slrn --
  - DebianPkg: tin --
  - DebianPkg: etpan-ng --
- IRC
  - DebianPkg: irssi
  - DebianPkg: weechat
- ICQ
  - DebianPkg: licq
  - DebianPkg: bitlbee -- ICQ to IRC gateway

- RSS
  - DebianPkg: rsstail -- *tail* RSS feeds
  - DebianPkg: rss2email -- RSS/RDF to mail converter
  - DebianPkg: newsbeuter -- text mode RSS feed reader with podcast support

Multimedia

- Mixer
- Sound
  - DebianPkg: mpg321
  - DebianPkg: cplay
  - DebianPkg: mp3blaster
  - DebianPkg: cdcd
  - DebianPkg: mpc, DebianPkg: ncmpc (DebianPkg: mpd)

- Graphic conversion and manipulation
  - DebianPkg: aview
  - DebianPkg: imagemagick
  - DebianPkg: netpbm
- Graphic viewers
  - DebianPkg: zgv which requires svgalib, so it only runs on some arches
  - DebianPkg: fbi which doesn't require svgalib and includes fbgs (a ghostscript frontend)
- Video
  - DebianPkg: mplayer (mplayer -vo caca MyFile.mpg *or* mplayer -vo aa MyFile.mpg)

PIM

- Todo list
  - DebianPkg: tdl

- DebianPkg: hnb -- hierarchical notebook
- Calendar tools
  - DebianPkg: pal
  - DebianPkg: ccal
  - DebianPkg: gcal
- Address books
  - DebianPkg: lbdb
  - DebianPkg: bbdb
  - DebianPkg: abook

Office

- Spreadsheet
  - DebianPkg: sc

- Word processing
  - DebianPkg: odt2txt (view openoffice document, see mc above)

"Graphic" editors

- DebianPkg: aewan
- DebianPkg: tetradraw

System Administration

- top in the DebianPkg: procps package -- list what's running and resource usage
- DebianPkg: ngrep -- Show network connections
- DebianPkg: apachetop -- Show active Apache details.
- DebianPkg: aptitude -- manage Debian packages.
- DebianPkg: ssh -- Remote system interaction (replaces deprecated "r" commands, telnet, ftp).

Fun

- DebianPkg: fortunes
- DebianPkg: sl
- DebianPkg: bb
- DebianPkg: filters -- B1FF, Swedish Chef, ...
- DebianPkg: cmatrix

- CleanMe : This page needs some cleanup, and needs to be improved (hint: focus on most useful tools). For example, how can a console session be recorded in a file?

CategoryCommandLineInterface