

# 04. Getting Help

## Table Of Commands

- [01. What actually matters in these sections](#)
- [02. Introducing The Manual](#)
  - [man pages](#)
- [03. Navigating and Searching a Man page](#)
  - [basic shortcuts inside man page](#)
- [04. Parsing Man Page Synopses](#)
- [05. Manual Sections](#)
- [06. The Type and Which command](#)
  - [Type](#)
  - [Which](#)
- [07. Using the help command](#)

## Table Of Commands

Command	Application
<code>man &lt;command_name&gt;</code>	prints documentation about the command
<code>man &lt;command_name&gt;</code>	prints documentation about the command

## 01. What actually matters in these sections

Important	Useful	Nice To Have
The Man Pages	Type Command	The 7 Manual Page Sections
Navigating A Man Page	Which Command	
	Help Command	

## 02. Introducing The Manual

## man pages

- The `man pages` are short for manual pages. These are built-in documentation available on nearly all UNIX like OS
- `man pages` include information on commands and their usage
  - For example, `man ncal` will show documentation about the `ncal` command.
  - To exit, press `q`.

## 03. Navigating and Searching a Man page

- while we are on `man` page, we can navigate the up and down of pages using up and down arrow keys.

### basic shortcuts inside man page

- we can scroll forward one-page using `space` or `f` key
- we can scroll backward one-page using `b` key
- we can use `/` to search in the documentation.

## 04. Parsing Man Page Synopses

- It's a brief summary of the command or function's interface. For commands, this shows the syntax of the command and its arguments (including options)
- example: `man ncal` gives,

```
cal [-31jy] [-A number] [-B number] [-d yyyy-mm] [[month] year]
```

- Anything listed inside of square brackets is optional except for the command used `ncal`

- if something is not listed inside of a square bracket, then it is considered non-optional.
- first commands of the square brackets can be used without providing additional parameters.
- other commands are expected to be used by the expected parameter.

## 05. Manual Sections

- The manual is broken into 8 different sections, each covering a specific topic in depth.
  1. User commands
  2. System calls
  3. C library functions
  4. Special files
  5. File forms
  6. Games
  7. Miscellaneous
  8. System admin commands
- we can search for specific keywords which belong to a specific section and then get to know about that by specifically providing num of sections.
- example:
  - `man -k cd` will give a list of sections where it is present.
    - output;

```

apt-cdrom (8)          - APT CD-ROM management utility
cd-create-profile (1)  - Color Manager Profile Creation Tool
cd-fix-profile (1)    - Color Manager Testing Tool
cd-it8 (1)            - Color Manager Testing Tool
hex2hcd (1)           - Broadcom Bluetooth firmware converter
hipercdecode (1)      - Decode a HIPERC stream into human readable form.
mcd (1)               - change MSDOS directory
rsyncd.conf (5)        - configuration file for rsync in daemon mode
systemd-timesyncd (8)  - Network Time Synchronization
systemd-timesyncd.service (8) - Network Time Synchronization
timesyncd.conf (5)    - Network Time Synchronization configuration files
timesyncd.conf.d (5)  - Network Time Synchronization configuration files

```

- to get to a specific command, we use `man <section_number>` `command` as `man 1 mcd` will print the details about `mcd` command from section 1.

## 06. The Type and Which command

### Type

- It gives information on where or how the command is defined.
- There are 4 types of commands.
  1. An executable program which are compiled binary files.  
(usually stored in `/bin`, `/usr/bin`, `usr/local/bin`)
  2. A built-in shell command
  3. A shell function
  4. An alias

- example:
  1. `type clear` will output `clear is hashed (/usr/bin/clear)` is executable program.
  2. `type cd` will output `cd is a shell builtin` is a built-in shell command.

## Which

- It gives the location of the executable command

## 07. Using the help command

- not all commands have support to the `man` like built-in shell commands
- for shell built-in commands, we use help commands
- example: `help cd`