Shell Cheat Sheet

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Contents

Commands

Files and Directories

- `cd`: change the working directory
    - `cd`: change to home directory
    - `cd ..`: change to parent directory
    - `cd /home/joe`: change to directory using a absolute path
    - `cd docs/letters`: change to directory using a relative path
- `cp`: copy files and directories
    - `cp [source] [destination]`: copy source file to destination
    - `-f`: force overwrite an existing file
    - `-i`: prompt before overwrite
    - `-n`: don't overwrite an existing file
    - `-r`: copy a directory recursively
- `dd`: convert and copy a file
    - `dd if=[in] of=[out] bs=[n]`: copy from in to out, n bytes at at time
- `du`: estimate file space usage
    - `-h`: print sizes in human readable format
    - `-s`: display only a total for each argument
- `ln`: make links between files
    - `ln [target] [link name]`: create a (hard) link to target
    - `-s`: make a symbolic link instead of a hard link
- `ls`: list directory contents
    - `-a`: also display hidden entries (starting with ".")
    - `-h`: print human readable sizes (in combination with `-l`)
    - `-l`: long listing format (`ll` is short for `ls -l`)
    - `-r`: reverse order
    - `-R`: list files recursively
    - `-t`: sort by modificaton time, newest first
- `mkdir`: make directories
    - `make foo bar`: create the directories "foo" and "bar"
- `mv`: move (rename) files
    - `mv [source] [destination]`
    - `-f`: force overwrite an existing file
    - `-i`: prompt before overwrite
    - `-n`: don't overwrite an existing file
- `pwd`: print name of current/working directory
- `rm`: remove files or directories
    - `-d`: remove empty directories
    - `-f`: force overwrite an existing file
    - `-i`: prompt before every removal
    - `-r`: delete a directory recursively

- `touch`: change file timestamps – or create a new file
  - `-c`: don't create a new file

File Attributes

- `basename`: strip directory and suffix from filenames
- `cleanname`: clean a path name
- `chmod`: change file mode bits
- `chown`: change file owner and group
- `file`: determine file type
- `mtime`: print file information
- `stat`: display file or file system status

Searching Files

- `find`: search for files in a directory hierarchy
- `locate`: find files by name
- `updatedb`: update a database for locate

File Transfer

- `curl`: transfer a URL
- `ftp`: File Transfer Protocol client
- `rsync`: a fast, versatile, remote (and local) file-copying tool
- `scp`: secure copy (remote file copy program)
- `sftp`: secure file transfer program
- `wget`: the non-interactive network downloader

Archives

- `ar`: create, modify, and extract from archives
- `tar`: an archiving utility
- `zip`: package and compress (archive) files
- `unrar`: unpack RAR archives
- `unzip`: list, test and extract compressed files in a ZIP archive

Text

- `cat`: concatenate files and print on the standard output
- `cut`: remove sections from each line of files

- `fmt`: simple optimal text formatter
- `fold`: wrap each input line to fit in specified width
- `diff`: compare files line by line
- `freq`: print histogram of character frequencies
- `grep`: print lines matching a pattern
- `head`: output the first part of files
- `join`: join lines of two files on a common field
- `look`: display lines beginning with a given string
- `read`: copies one line from a file to standard output
- `sed`: stream editor for filtering and transforming text
- `sort`: sort lines of text files
- `split`: split a file into pieces
- `strings`: print the strings of printable characters in files
- `tail`: output the last part of files
- `tee`: read from standard input and write to standard output and files
- `tr`: translate or delete characters
- `wc`: print newline, word, and byte counts for each file
- `uniq`: report or omit repeated lines

Spelling

- `aspell`: interactive spell checker
- `hunspell`: spell checker, stemmer and morphological analyzer

Document Preparation

- `troff`: the troff processor of the groff text formatting system

Text Editors

- `ed`: line-oriented text editor
- `emacs`: GNU project Emacs editor
- `vi`: screen oriented (visual) display editor based on ex
- `vim`: Vi IMproved, a programmers text editor
    - `vim -p [files]`: open multiple files in tabs

Miscellaneous

- `acpi`: show battery status and other ACPI information
- `ascii`: interpret ASCII characters
- `chroot`: run command or interactive shell with special root directory

- `cmp`: compare two files byte by byte
- `dmesg`: print or control the kernel ring buffer
- `eval`: construct command by concatenating arguments
- `expr`: evaluate expressions
- `hexdump`: display file contents in hexadecimal, decimal, octal, or ascii
- `halt`: halt, power-off or reboot the machine
- `history`: manipulate the history list
- `lspci`: list all PCI devices
- `pwgen`: generate pronounceable passwords
- `seq`: print a sequence of numbers
- `shred`: overwrite a file to hide its contents, and optionally delete it
- `shutdown`: halt, power-off or reboot the machine (see `halt`)
- `sl`: cure your bad habit of mistyping
- `unicode`: interpret unicode characters
- `xrandr`: primitive command line interface to RandR extension
- `yes`: output a string repeatedly until killed

Date and Time

- `cal`: display a calendar
- `date`: print or set the system date and time

Math

- `bc`: an arbitrary precision calculator language (interactive)
- `dc`: reverse-polish desk calculator (interactive)
- `factor`: factor numbers
- `hoc`: interactive floating point language
- `primes`: list prime numbers
- `rand`: generate pseudo-random bytes

Documentation

- `apropos`: search the manual page names and descriptions
- `man`: an interface to the on-line reference manuals
- `type`: write a description of command type
- `whatis`: display one-line manual page descriptions

Printing

- `cancel`: cancel jobs

- `lpr`: print files

Programming

Shell Scripting

- `alias`: define or display aliases
- `break`: exit from for, while, or until loop
- `echo`: display a line of text
- `export`: set the export attribute for variables
- `getflags`: command-line parsing for shell scripts
- `printf`: format and print data
- `sleep`: delay for a specified amount of time
- `test`: check file types and compare values
- `xargs`: build and execute command lines from standard input

Scripting Languages

- `awk`: pattern-directed scanning and processing language
- `perl`: the Perl language interpreter
- `python`: an interpreted, interactive, object-oriented programming language
- `sh`: shell, the standard command language interpreter

Building, Debugging

- `gcc`: GNU project C and C++ compiler
- `gdb`: the GNU Debugger
- `make`: GNU make utility to maintain groups of programs
- `mk`: maintain (make) related files
- `strip`: discard symbols from object files

System Administration

- `df`: report file system disk space usage
- `fdisk`: manipulate disk partition table
- `fsck`: check and repair a Linux filesystem
- `mkfs`: build a Linux filesystem
- `mount`: mount a filesystem
- `su`: run a command with substitute user and group ID
- `sudo`: execute a command as another user
- `systemctl`: control the systemd system and service manager

- `uname`: print system information

Processes

- `bg`: run jobs in the background
- `kill`: terminate a process
- `killall`: terminate a process by name
- `nice`: run a program with modified scheduling priority
- `nohup`: run a command immune to hangups, with output to a non-tty
- `ps`: report a snapshot of the current processes
- `top`: display Linux processes (interactive)

User Administration

- `groupadd`: create a new group
- `groupdel`: delete a group
- `groupmems`: administer members of a users's primary group
- `groupmod`: modify a group definition on the system
- `groups`: display current group names
- `id`: print real and effective user and group IDs
- `passwd`: change user password
- `useradd`: create a new user or update default new user information
- `userdel`: delete a user account and related files
- `usermod`: modify a user account
- `users`: print the user names of users currently logged in

Networking

- `ip`: show/manipulate routing, devices, policy routing and tunnels
- `ping`: send ICMP ECHO_REQUEST to network hosts

Printers

- `lpadmin`: configure cups printers and classes

Checksums/Hashing

- `base32`: base32 encode/decode data and print to standard output
- `base64`: base64 encode/decode data and print to standard output
- `md5sum`: compute and check MD5 message digest

- `sha1sum`: compute and check SHA1 message digest
- `sha256sum`: compute and check SHA256 message digest
- `sha512sum`: compute and check SHA512 message digest
- `sum`: checksum and count the blocks in a file

GNU Privacy Guard

- `gpg`: OpenPGP encryption and signing tool

Encryption, Descryption, Signing

- `-d|--decrypt`: decrypt an encrypted message
- `-r|--recipient`: define recipient (public key to be used for encryption)
- `-e|--encrypt`: encrypt a message asymetrically
- `-c|--symmetric`: encrypt a message with a symmetric cipher (using a passphrase)
- `-s|--sign`: sign a message

Key Management

- `--gen-key|--generate-key`: generate a new key pair
- `-k|--list-keys`: list public keys
- `-k --keyid-format SHORT`: list public keys and print short key ids
- `-K|--list-secret-keys`: list private keys
- `--search-keys` search the keyserver for the given names
- `--recv-keys`: import the keys with the given key IDs from a keyserver
- `--send-keys`: send the keys with the given key IDs to a keyserver
- `--import`: add the given key to the keyring
- `--export`: exports the given public key
- `--export-secret-keys`: exports the given secret key
- `--armor`: create ASCII armored output (in contrast to default binary output)