



BASIC LINUX COMMANDS

In this file, you will learn about various Linux commands and understand their usage to execute the instructions given in the course.

Commands to check machine configuration:

- The hostname command: It is used to show or set the system's hostname. It can also be used to display the system's DNS name, or to display or set the NIS (Network Information Services) domain name. In many cases, you will use this command to display the system's hostname.
 - a. To display a hostname: hostname





b. To display an IP address: hostname -i or ifconfig

```
X
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # hostname -i
10.0.0.120
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # ifconfig
eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 9001
       inet 10.0.0.120 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.0.255
       inet6 fe80::4al:f7ff:fe98:af8 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
       ether 06:al:f7:98:0a:f8 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
       RX packets 1844 bytes 187943 (183.5 KiB)
       RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
       TX packets 1822 bytes 216101 (211.0 KiB)
       TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
       inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
       inet6 :: 1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0x10<host>
       loop txqueuelen 1 (Local Loopback)
       RX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
       RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
       TX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
       TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~]#
```

c. To display the domain name: hostname -d





d. To display an FQDN (Fully Qualified Hostname): hostname -f A fully qualified hostname consists of a short hostname and its DNS domain name. To see only the short name, use the hostname -s command. In our case, the FQDN and hostname are the same.





2. Command to check the Linux version: cat /etc/redhat-release





1. Basic Directory Commands

- a. **mkdir**: You can use this command to create a new directory within the current directory. The general syntax is 'mkdir <directory name>'.
- b. cd: 'cd' stands for 'change directory' and you can use this command to change the current working directory. The general syntax is 'cd <directory name or path>'.
 - i. **cd** .. : Use this command to go back one directory from the working directory.
 - ii. **cd** ~: This command takes you directly to your home directory.

As seen in the example below, we have first created a directory named 'basic' using the **mkdir** command. Then we have changed our current working directory to basic using the **cd** command. Then we used the **cd** .. command to go back one directory. We can check whether our directory was created or not using the **ls** command, which is explained later.





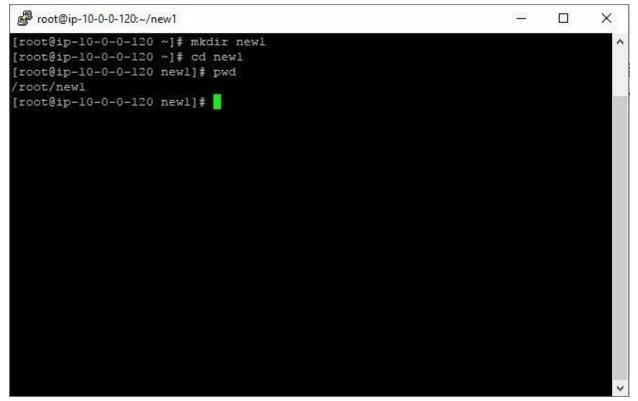
c. rmdir: Use this command to remove a directory. The general syntax to remove a directory without files is 'rmdir <directory name>'. However, if your directory contains files, then the following command is to be used: rmdir -rv <directory name>.

To remove our newly created directory, we use the 'rmdir' basic command, as shown in the example below. To verify this, we again use the 'ls' command.





d. pwd: It stands for 'print working directory', and it displays the full pathname of the current working directory as its output. In the example below, you can see that first we created a new directory new1 using the 'mkdir' command and then used the 'cd' command. Now when you type pwd on the terminal, see that it shows the complete path of the current working directory as its output.



- e. **Is**: Use the **Is** command to list all the files and subdirectories in a directory. In Linux, hidden files start with a dot (.) and are not visible using the 'Is' command. The '**Is -I**' command is used to view the long output format of the file, which tells you about the permissions, owner, date, etc. You can use the '**Is -a**' command to list all hidden files and subdirectories.
- 2. **cp**: Use this command to make copies of files and directories.
 - a. To copy the content of one file to another, use 'cp <file1> <file2>'.
 This will copy the contents of 'file1' to 'file2'. If file2 does not exist, the system will create a new file with the name 'file2'.
 - b. To copy a file to a directory, use 'cp <filename> <directory name>'.

 Note that both the file and the directory should exist within the current working directory. If the desired file or directory does not exist in the current directory, you should specify the entire path of the directory.





- 3. **mv**: Use this command to move files and directories from one place to another.
 - a. To move a file from one place to another, use 'mv <filename> <directory name>'.
 - Note that the directory should be present in the current working directory for the command to work. If the directory does not exist in the current working directory, you should specify the entire path of the directory.
 - b. The 'mv' command can also be used to rename a directory. This can be done by using 'mv <directory name> <new directory name>'.

Task: Before you proceed to the next section, remove all the directories you have created. Then, create two new directories named 'folder1' and 'folder2'. Verify whether the previous directories have been deleted and the new directories created using the 'ls' command.





4. Basic file commands

- a. Creating a file: There are various ways in which a file can be created on Linux
 - i. The 'cat' command: To create a file using 'cat', type 'cat>filename' on the terminal and then enter the text you want in the file. Then, exit using ctrl+d.
 - ii. Use the 'cd' command to navigate to the folder1 directory. Now, use the cat command to create a file named first.txt, as shown in the example below. Enter the following text in the file: Without Big Data, you are blind and deaf in the middle of the freeway. Now, exit by pressing ctrl+d twice. Your file with the required text has

```
[root@ip-10-0-0-120:~/folder1
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # mkdir folder1
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # mkdir folder2
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # ls
anaconda-ks.ofg folder1 folder2 original-ks.ofg
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # cd folder1
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder1] # cat>first.txt
Without Big Data, you are in the middle of the freeway.[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder1] #
```

now been created.

- iii. Using the 'vi' editor: This is the most important command on Linux, which is used to create and edit files.
 - 1. To create a file using the vi editor, type 'vi <filename>' on the console. If the file with the same name already exists, it will open the current file. Otherwise, it will create a new file.
 - An important aspect of the vi editor is that there are two modes of operation: command mode and insert mode.
 When we enter a file using vi, it by default is in the command mode. To enter the





- insert mode, we use **i**. The insert mode is used to enter text in the file.
- 3. To go back to the command mode from the insert mode, press the **escape key**. To exit from a file, type ':q' in the command mode. This option will ask you if you want to proceed without saving the changes. If you don't want this option to pop up and directly close the file, then use the :q! command. To save a file, use ':w'; and to save and exit a file, use the ':wq' command.
- 4. Once you are in the insert mode by pressing i, you can add and delete text from your file. However, you cannot use the arrow keys to navigate through the file. The following keys are used to navigate:
 - a. **h** Move the cursor one character position to the left
 - b. j Move the cursor down by a line
 - c. k Move the cursor up by a line
 - d. I Move the cursor one character position to the right
- 5. When we press i, it will enter text before the cursor position until escape is hit. Instead, if we press I, it will enter text at the start of the current line until escape is hit. Similarly, a is used to enter text after the current cursor position and A to enter text at the end of the current line.
- 6. **x** is used to delete the character under the current cursor position.
- 7. **yy** is used to copy the current line into the buffer and **p** is used to paste the contents in the buffer to the line after the current cursor position. To copy n lines, use **nyy** and then use **p** to paste it.
- 8. There is also an option to search for text in the vi editor. It can be done using *I* and ?. The *Istring* is used to search for the string forward in the file whereas the ?string is used to search backwards. The **n** and **N** are used to move to the next occurrence of the string in the same and previous direction of the search respectively.





- 9. Do the following to get familiar with copying and moving files in Linux.
 - a. First, open the file first.txt using the vi editor. The command for the same **vi first.txt**. Try editing and navigating through the file using the keys mentioned above. Also, try cutting and pasting lines to get a clear understanding of how vi editor

works.





b. Go back to the home directory (home directory is root in our case) using cd ~ and then use cd to navigate to folder2. Make a file named second.txt using the vi command and add the following text: Data is the new oil. Do not forget that to add text we first need to go into the insert mode by pressing i Then save and exit



the file using :wq.

- c. Now go to back to the home directory using cd ~.
- d. Now, to append the contents of first.txt to second.txt, use the following command in the home directory: cat folder1/first.txt >> folder2/second.txt
 You can see that the entire path is specified because the files are inside the sub directories folder1 and folder2.





e. Now go and see the contents of second.txt. You will see that the contents have been appended.

f. The following example is just to make it easier for you to understand the difference between appending and copying. Do not use the following command on the files first.txt and second .txt. We will be using the appended second.txt ahead. cp folder1/first.txt folder2/second.txt . You will be asked whether you want to overwrite the contents of second.txt. If you press y, You can see that the contents of second.txt have been overwritten.

Kindly practice the vi editor to get familiar as it is very important in our course.

5. **grep** command - the grep command is used to search for text in a file. The syntax to use the grep command is **grep pattern filename**. The pattern can be any word or a series of words. There are various options to use along with the grep command. The **grep -n** command also tells us the line number on which the pattern was found. The **grep -i** command can be used to search for a pattern without being case-sensitive.





a. To get familiar with the grep command, try finding the word data in the file second.txt. The command is grep Data folder2/second.txt if you are in the home directory or grep Data second.txt if you are in the folder2 directory. As we can see if we are not in the directory in which the file exists, the entire pathname is to be written. To avoid errors, make it a habit to write the entire pathname.

```
root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # grep Data folder2/second.txt
Data is the new oil.
Without Big Data, you are in the middle of the freeway.
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] #
```

6. **chmod** command - the chmod command is used to change mode or permissions of the file or directory. The syntax for the chmod command is **chmod mode filename**. File control mechanisms are determined by classes and permissions. Each file or directory has three classes: owner, group, other users and three permissions: read(r), write(w) and execute(e).





a. Use cd to move to the folder2 directory. Let us say we used the following command **Is -I second.txt**. The output is shown below.

```
[root@ip-10-0-0-120:~/folder2
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # cd folder2
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2] # 1s -1 second.txt
-rw-r--r-. 1 root root 76 Jan 16 07:26 second.txt
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2] #
```

- b. Now we need to understand what these 10 bits (-rw-r--r--) shown mean. The first bit determines whether it is a file(-) or directory(d). In our case, as we know it is a file(-). The next three bits rw- determine the owner permissions, the next three bits r-- the group permissions and the last three r-- tell us the permission for other users. In our case, the 10 bits indicate that the owner has read and write permissions, the group and other users have only read permissions.
- c. The mode can be changed either in the numeric or symbolic format. In the numeric format, 4 stands for read, 2 for write, and 1 for execute. In the numeric format, the mode always has 3 digits. The first for the owner, the second for the group and the third for others. Each digit is determined by the sum of all the permissions granted. For example, if the user has read, write and execute permissions, the digit corresponding to that will be 4+2+1=7. Now let us execute the following command in the terminal: chmod 400 second.txt. Now type the command Is -I second.txt. As seen, now the owner has only read permissions while no permission is granted to group and others.



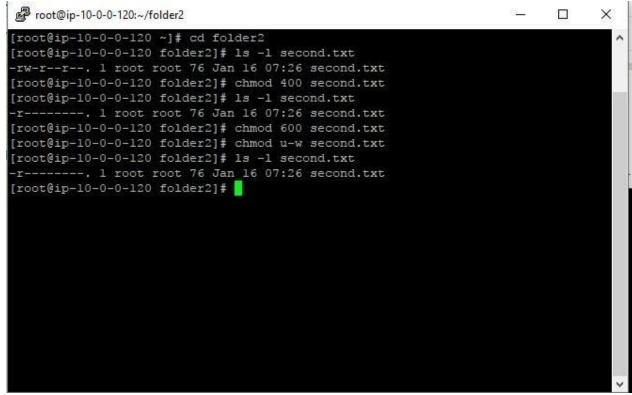


d. To change the mode in the symbolic mode, we need to understand the meaning of a few symbols: + means add permissions, - means remove permissions, = means adding permissions and removing permissions of unspecified fields, u - user(owner), g - group, o- others and a - all. For example, chmod u-x means denying execute permissions to the user.





e. As you can see below, I have first given the owner read and write permissions using **chmod 600 second.txt** and then used **chmod u-w** to deny the write permissions.



- 7. chown command this command is used to change the user or group ownership of the given file. The general syntax for the chown command is **chown [OWNER][:[GROUP] filename**.
 - a. Go through this <u>link</u> to understand what a user and a group are, and learn how to add a user to a group. Let us take an example of the second.txt file.
 - b. Add a user named user1 to the root group. The command is

useradd -m -g root user1

- c. Now, use the **Is -I second.txt** to see the owner and the group of the file. As we can see in the image above, the owner, as well as the group of the file, are both root.
- d. Now let us use the chown command to change the user of the file without changing its group. The command for the same is chown user1: second.txt.





e. Use the **Is-I** command to verify whether the user has changed or not.

```
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# useradd -m -g root user1
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# chown user1: second.txt
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# 1s -1 second.txt
-r------. 1 user1 root 76 Jan 16 07:26 second.txt
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# ]
```

f. To change the group, you need to first create a new group. Let us create a group named group2. Add a user named user2 to group2 and change the owner as well as the group of the file second.txt. The command to create a new group is groupadd group2.





Practice the commands in the link above.

 Head command - the head -n <filename/filenames> command displays the specified number of lines from the file to the output. For example, head -1 second.txt displays the first line of the file to the output.





9. tail command: the **tail -n <filename>** command is used to the specified number of lines from the bottom of the file to the output. For example, **tail -1 second.txt** will display the last line of the file

```
cord@ip-10-0-0-120:~/folder2
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# tail -l second.txt
Without Big Data, you are in the middle of the freeway.[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]#
```

Please note that if the number of lines is not specified in the command for the head and tail command, it by default will display the first and last 10 lines.





10.rm command - the rm <filename> command is used to delete files. For example, create a file with any random name and use the rm command to delete it. I have created a file named run.txt and used the rm command to delete it. We can use cat to do so or use the touch <filename> command. The

```
root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# touch run.txt
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# rm run.txt
rm: remove regular empty file 'run.txt'? y
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]#
```

touch command is used to create empty files.





11. wget command - the wget command is used to download files from the internet. Kindly use wget link> to download a file or page from the internet. To run the wget command in the background, use wget -b link>. For example, I have downloaded the www.google.com web page using the wget command. Before using the wget command, we need to check whether the wget utility is installed or not. This can be checked using the rpm -qa wget command. If installed, it will tell the wget utility version number. Otherwise, it will do nothing. To install wget, use yum -y install wget. The yum command is used to update, download, and search for any software. The basic syntax for the yum command is

```
proot@ip-10-0-0-120:~/folder2
                                                                          X
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2] # wget www.google.com
-bash: wget: command not found
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# clear
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# rpm -qa wget
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# yum -y install wget
Loaded plugins: amazon-id, rhui-lb, search-disabled-repos
rhui-REGION-client-config-server-7
                                                          | 2.9 kB
                                                                       00:00
rhui-REGION-rhel-server-releases
                                                          | 3.5 kB
                                                                       00:00
rhui-REGION-rhel-server-rh-common
                                                          1 3.8 kB
                                                                       00:00
(1/7): rhui-REGION-client-config-server-7/x86 64/primary d | 6.6 kB
                                                                       00:00
(2/7): rhui-REGION-rhel-server-releases/7Server/x86 64/gro | 709 kB
                                                                       00:00
(3/7): rhui-REGION-rhel-server-rh-common/7Server/x86 64/gr | 104 B
                                                                       00:00
(4/7): rhui-REGION-rhel-server-releases/7Server/x86 64/upd | 2.4 MB
                                                                       00:00
(5/7): rhui-REGION-rhel-server-rh-common/7Server/x86 64/pr | 120 kB
                                                                       00:00
(6/7): rhui-REGION-rhel-server-rh-common/7Server/x86 64/up | 33 kB
                                                                       00:00
(7/7): rhui-REGION-rhel-server-releases/7Server/x86 64/pri | 46 MB
                                                                       00:01
Resolving Dependencies
-> Running transaction check
 --> Package wget.x86 64 0:1.14-15.e17 4.1 will be installed
--> Finished Dependency Resolution
Dependencies Resolved
```





```
proot@ip-10-0-0-120:~/folder2
                                                                         ×
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# wget www.google.com
--2018-01-16 11:58:28-- http://www.google.com/
Resolving www.google.com (www.google.com)... 172.217.7.196, 2607:f8b0:4009:802::
2004
Connecting to www.google.com (www.google.com)|172.217.7.196|:80... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: unspecified [text/html]
Saving to: 'index.html'
    [ <=>
                                            ] 12,016
                                                         --.-K/s
                                                                   in Os
2018-01-16 11:58:28 (344 MB/s) - 'index.html' saved [12016]
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]# 1s
index.html second.txt
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 folder2]#
```

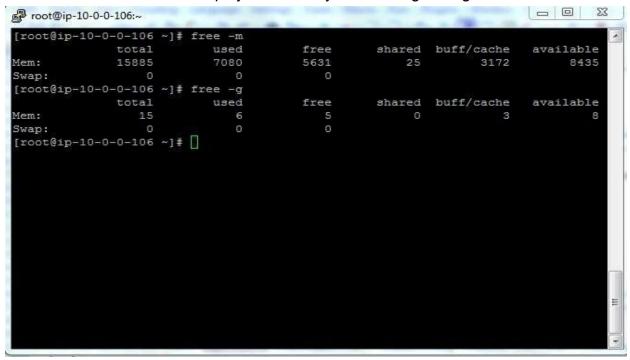
- 12. Disk Usage Commands in Linux
 - a. df the df command is used to check the amount of disk space used and available in the Linux file system.
 - i. df h : the -h converts the df table in human readable format.

```
root@ip-10-0-0-120;~
                                                                        X
login as: root
root@34.202.69.178's password:
Last failed login: Tue Jan 16 11:40:34 UTC 2018 from 119.192.232.225 on ssh:nott
There were 118 failed login attempts since the last successful login.
Last login: Tue Jan 16 10:35:19 2018 from 114.143.176.26
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~]# df
Filesystem
             1K-blocks
                          Used Available Use% Mounted on
              10473452 1202852 9270600 12% /
/dev/xvda2
                                          0% /dev
devtmpfs
                486796
                                  486796
tmpfs
                 507288
                                  507284
                                           1% /dev/shm
                        19348
tmpfs
                 507288
                                  487940
                                         4% /run
tmpfs
                 507288
                                  507288 0% /sys/fs/cgroup
tmpfs
                101460
                                  101460 0% /run/user/0
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # df -h
Filesystem
             Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/xvda2
               10G 1.2G 8.9G 12% /
devtmpfs
               476M
                    0 476M
                                0% /dev
tmpfs
               496M 4.0K 496M
                                 1% /dev/shm
tmpfs
                                 4% /run
               496M
                    19M 477M
tmpfs
               496M
                          496M
                                 0% /sys/fs/cgroup
                      0 100M
               100M
                                 0% /run/user/0
[root@ip-10-0-0-120 ~] # df -m
Filesystem 1M-blocks Used Available Use% Mounted on
```





13. Free command - the free command is used to check the amount of free space present in memory. To display in in MB, use free -m as shown below. We can also display the memory in GB using free -g.



We can also clear the cache using the echo 3 > /proc/sys/vm/drop_caches command as shown in the image below.

