

Linux Basic Commands Cheat Sheet

File & Directory Management

Command	Description
ls	List files and directories
ls -l	List with detailed info
ls -a	List all files including hidden ones
pwd	Show current working directory
cd <directory>	Change directory
cd ..	Go up one directory level
mkdir <directory>	Create a new directory
rm <file>	Remove a file
rm -r <directory>	Remove a directory and its contents
cp <source> <destination>	Copy files or directories
mv <source> <destination>	Move or rename files
touch <filename>	Create a new empty file

Viewing & Editing Files

Command	Description
cat <file>	Display file contents
less <file>	View file page by page
head <file>	Show first 10 lines
tail <file>	Show last 10 lines
tail -f <file>	Monitor file changes live
nano <file>	Open file in Nano editor
vi <file>	Open file in Vim editor

System Information

Command	Description
uname -a	Show system information
hostname	Show or set hostname
whoami	Display current user
top	Show running processes
df -h	Show disk space usage
du -sh <directory>	Show size of a directory

free -h	Display memory usage
uptime	Show system uptime
date	Show current date and time

Permissions & Ownership

Command	Description
chmod <permissions> <file>	Change file permissions
chown <user>:<group> <file>	Change file owner and group
sudo <command>	Run command with superuser privileges

Networking

Command	Description
ping <host>	Check network connection
ifconfig / ip a	Show network interfaces and IPs
hostname -l	Show IP addresses
netstat -tuln	Show listening ports
curl <url>	Fetch data from a URL
wget <url>	Download file from a URL

Package Management (Ubuntu/Debian)

Command	Description
sudo apt update	Update package list
sudo apt upgrade	Upgrade installed packages
sudo apt install <package>	Install a package
sudo apt remove <package>	Remove a package
sudo apt autoremove	Remove unused packages

Search & Find

Command	Description
find <path> -name <filename>	Search files by name
grep '<text>' <file>	Search text in file
grep -r '<text>' <directory>	Search recursively in directory

Process Management

Command	Description
ps	Show running processes
ps aux	Detailed process list
kill <pid>	Kill process by ID
kill -9 <pid>	Force kill a process
jobs	Show background jobs
fg	Bring job to foreground
bg	Resume stopped job in background