Kali Linux Basic Commands

Kali Linux command is a powerful **penetration testing distribution** by **offensive security.** It is available in **32-bit, 64-bit** and **ARM flavors.** With the help of the Kali Linux features, we can easily create custom complex images. Kali Linux offers various certifications such as **OSCP, OSWE, OSEP, OSWP, OSEE,** and **KLCP.** The testing tools of the Kali Linux commands can be categorized into **information gathering, password attacks, vulnerability assessment, web applications, exploitation tools, sniffing** and **spoofing, maintaining access, system services** and **reporting tools.**

Kali Linux comprises various tools that can be used for **wireless attacks, hardware hacking, forensics, stress testing, and reverse engineering.** A **USB disk, hard disk,** or **Live DVD** can be used to install it. Network services are **HTTP, MYSQL,** and **SSH.** These are quite useful when using the Kali Linux commands.

Kali Linux operates on some android devices. Its predecessor is **Backtrack** which was carried over to Kali via **Live Boot.** The system becomes easy to use once the users get the command over it.

Kali Linux Basic Commands

The following is the list of Kali Linux basic commands:

1. Date Command
2. Cal Command
3. Cd command
4. Cp command
5. Whoami Command
6. Ls command
7. cat command
8. mkdir command
9. rm command
10. mv command
11. Uname command
12. Uptime command
13. Users Command

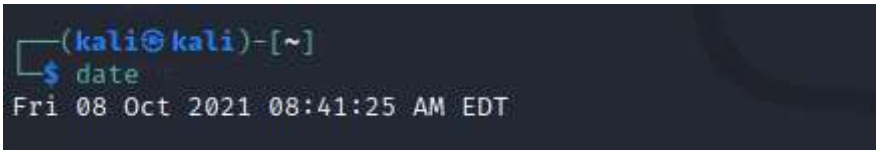
14. Less command
15. More command
16. Vi Command
17. Free Command
18. Sort Command
19. History Command
20. Pwd Command

1. Date Command

In Kali Linux, the **'date'** command is used to display the **system date** and **time.** In order to display the date, we have to use the following command:

Syntax:

```
# date
```

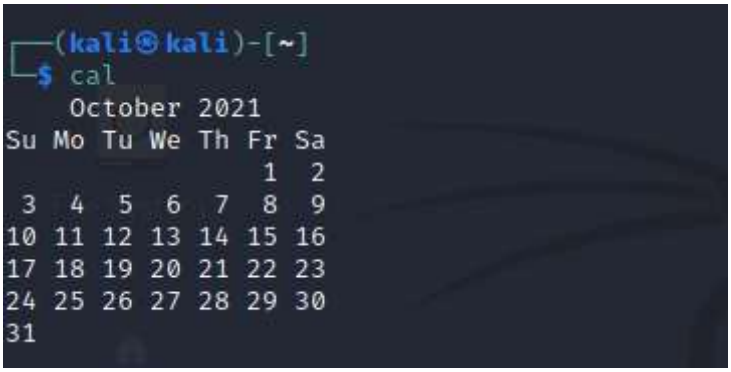


2. Cal Command

The cal command displays the current **month's formatted calendar** on our terminal screen. If we require a more advanced version of **cal,** we can install the **ncal package** on our Linux machine, which displays the calendar vertically and provides additional options.

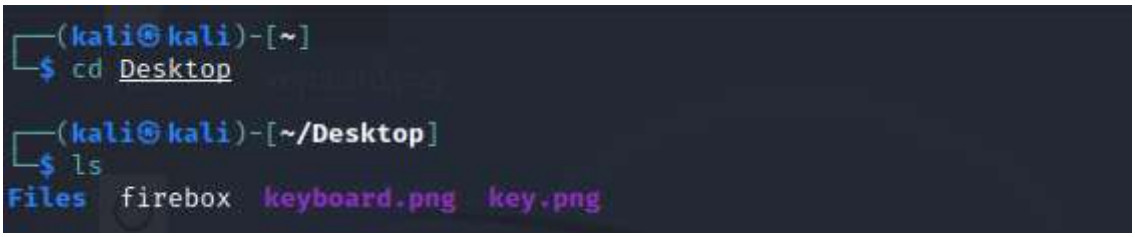
Syntax

```
# Cal
```



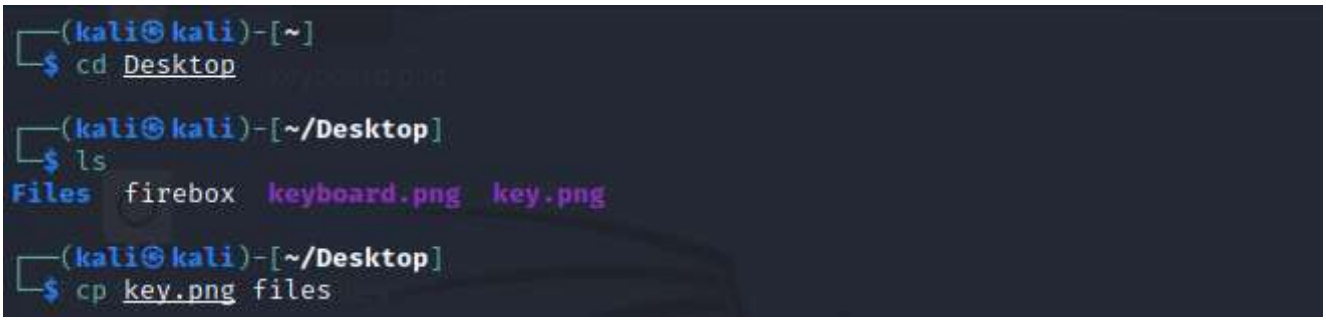
3. Cd Command

The **'cd'** command is also called **chdir** (Change Directory). We used this command to **change** or **switch** the current working directory.



4. cp Command

In Kali Linux, the **'cp'** command is used to **copy** files or a group of files or directories that create an exact image of a file on a disk with a different file name.



5. whoami Command

The **'whoami'** command is used to print the effective **user ID** whereas the **who** command prints information regarding users who are presently logged in.

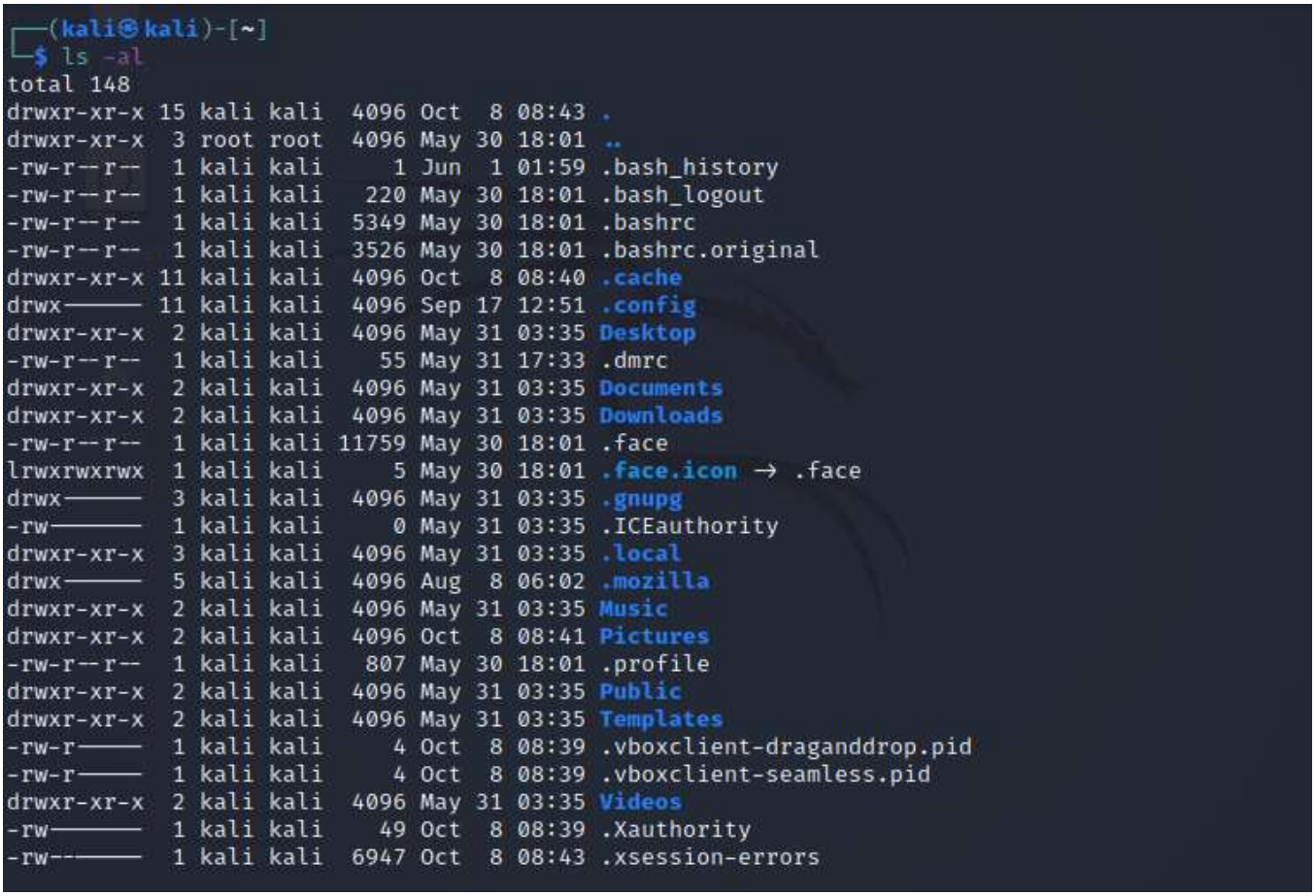
The **"w"** command can also be used to view who is logged on and what they are doing.

6. Ls Command

One of the most useful commands in Kali Linux is the **'ls'** command. The **ls** command lists the directory contents of files and directories. With the help of the **ls** command, we can easily list out every hidden file of a directory with the **-a** attribute, and for more detailed output, we can use the **-l** attribute.

Syntax

```
# ls -al
```



7. Cat Command

The **'cat'** (concatenate) command is one of Kali Linux's most commonly used commands, permitting us to create single or many files, concatenate files and redirect, view contain of file output in terminal or files.

Usually, we use the cat command to display the content of a file.

Syntax

```
# cat filename
```

8. mkdir Command

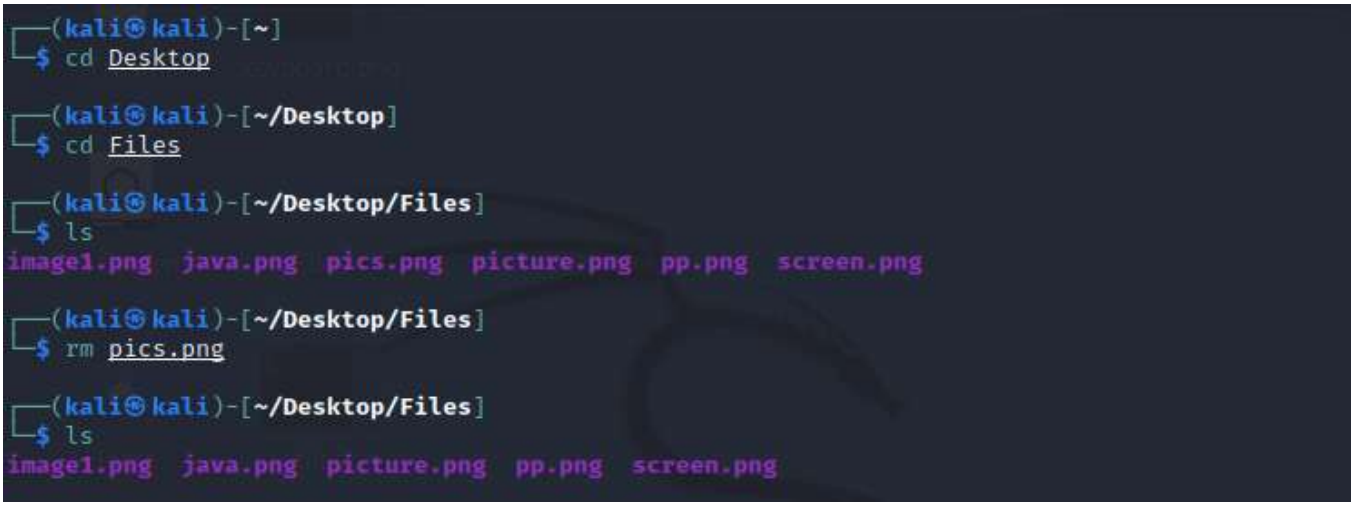
The **'mkdir'** command is used to **create directories.** For example, if we wish to create a directory named **'Penetration testing'** under the **'Documents'** directory, then we have to open a terminal and enter the below command:

```
cd Documents
mkdir Penetration testing
```

9. rm Command

In Kali Linux, the **'rm'** command is used to **delete files.** It can be used to delete directories when we use them recursively.

The removal process separates a file name form its associated data in a file system and identifies that space in the storage device as available for future writes. In other words, when we erase a file. the data inside it remains unchanged, but it is no longer linked to a filename.



10. mv Command

With the help of the **'mv'** command, we can **move** or **renames** files and directories on our file system.

11. uname Command

The **'uname'** command displays the **current system's information.** We can view system information about our Linux environment with the uname command in Linux. With the **uname -a command,** we can learn more about our system, including **Kernel Name, Node Name, Kernel Release, Kernel Version, Hardware Platform, Processor,** and **Operating System.**

Syntax

```
# uname
```

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ uname
Linux

┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ uname -a
Linux kali 5.10.0-kali7-686-pae #1 SMP Debian 5.10.28-1kali1 (2021-04-12) i686 GNU/Linux

┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ users
kali
```

12. uptime Command

The **'uptime'** command displays the amount of time the system has been running. Uptime's basic usage is simple: simply **type** the name of the command and click **Enter.**

Use the **-p** command-line option if we merely want to know how long the system has been up for and in a more human-readable format.

Syntax

```
# uptime
```

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ uptime
 09:34:53 up 57 min,  1 user,  load average: 0.29, 0.18, 0.16
```

13. users Command

The **'users'** command is used to display the **login names** of users logged in on the system.

Syntax

```
# users
```

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ users
kali
```

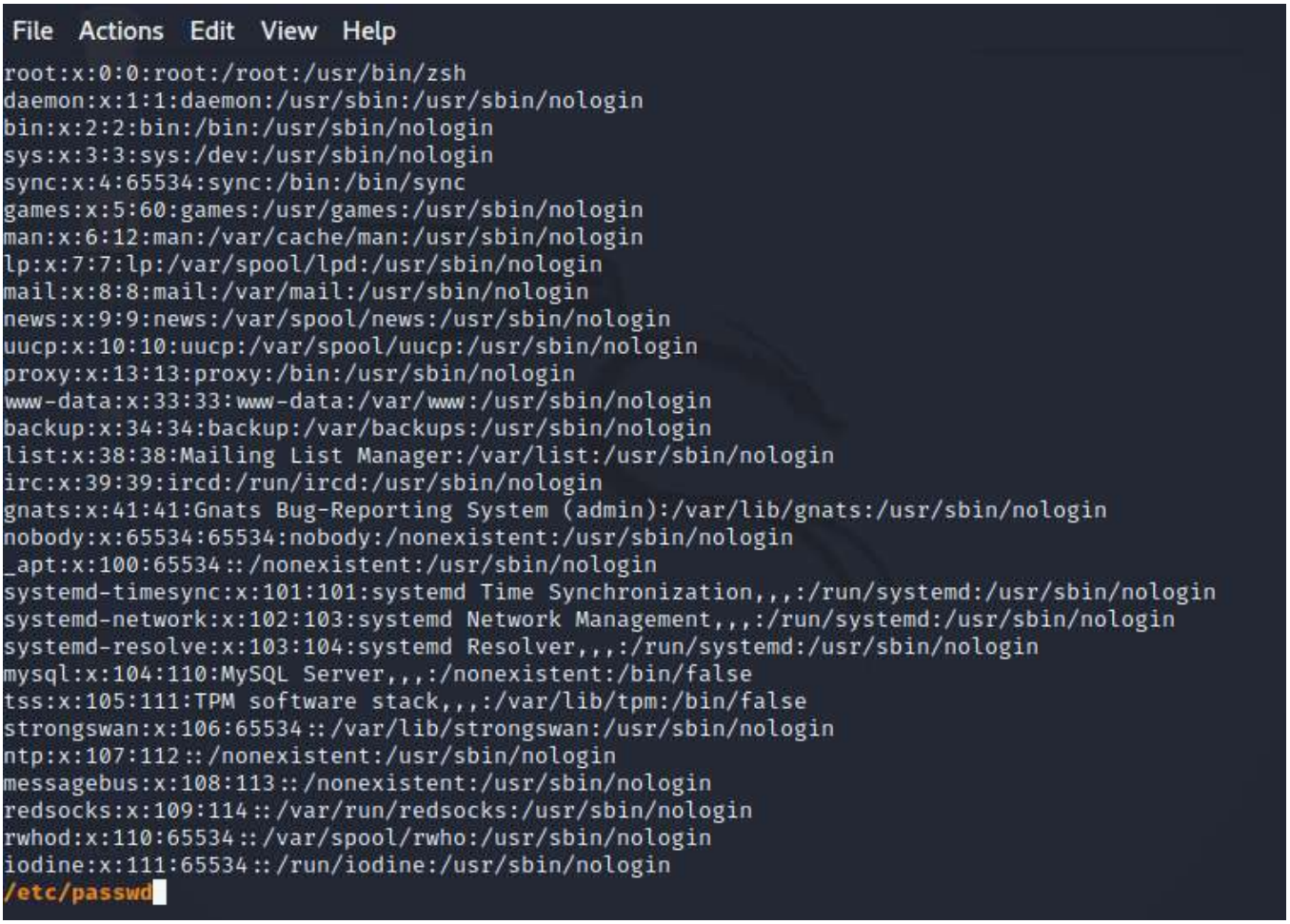
14. less Command

In Kali Linux, the **'less'** command is used to view files instead of opening the file. The less command is a more powerful variant of the **"more"** command which is used to show information one page at a time to the terminal.

We can view any text file with the help of the **"less"** command simply by typing the following command into a terminal window:

Syntax:

```
# less /etc/passwd
```



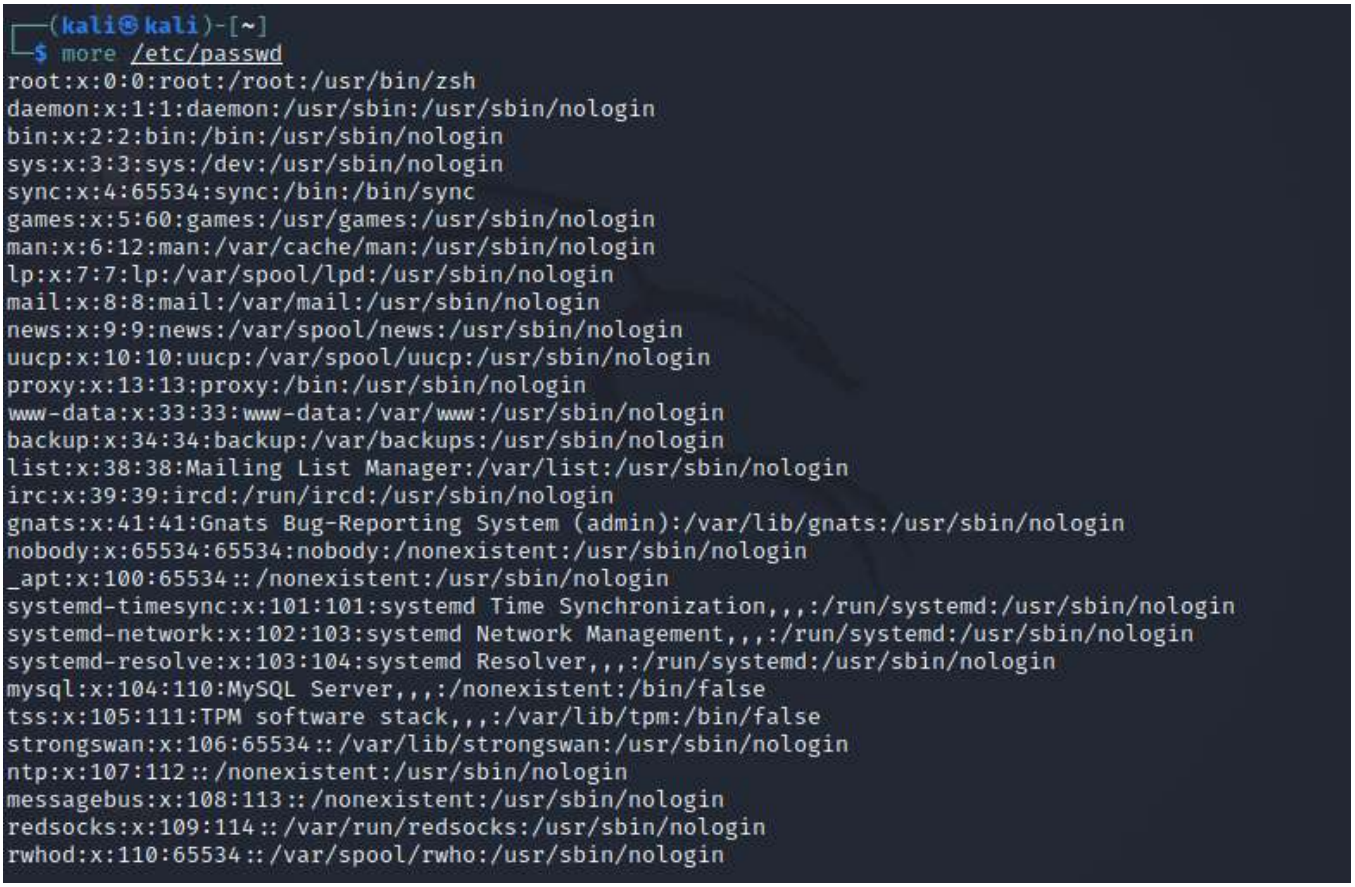
15. more Command

The **"more"** command permits us to show output in the terminal one page at a time. This is particularly beneficial when using a command that requires a lot of scrolling, such as the '**ls**' command or the **'du'** commands.

The **'more'** command works with any applications that output to the screen. A good way to test this is to type the following command into a terminal window:

Syntax:

```
# moreetc/passwd
```

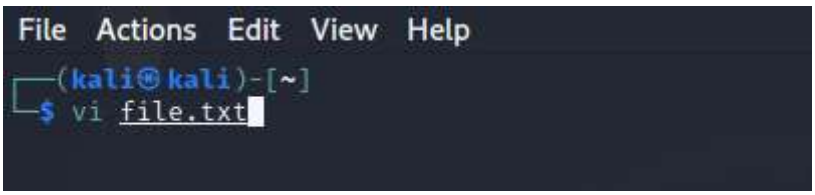


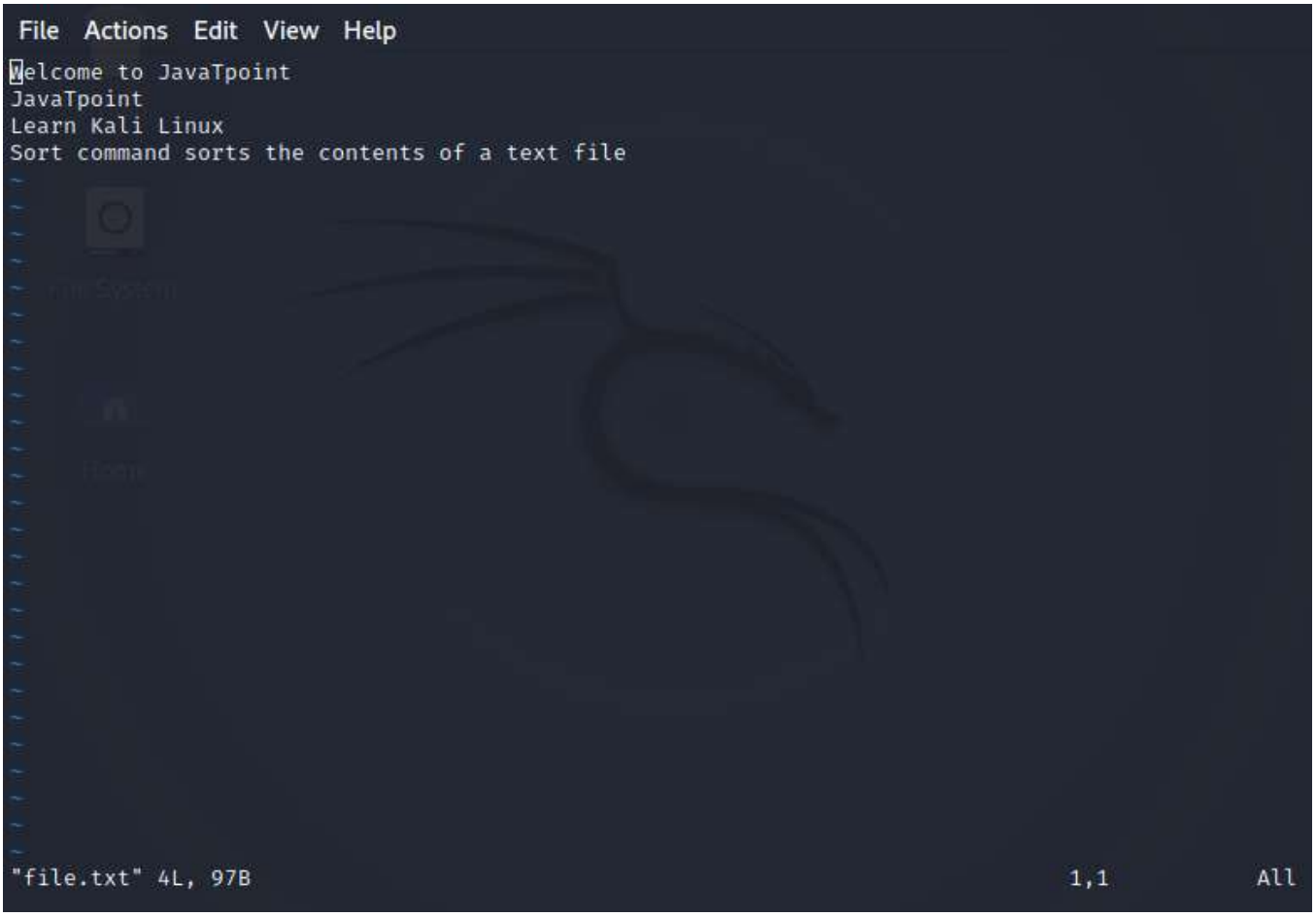
16. vi Command

The **'vi'** editor is a screen editor that comes with practically every **UNIX** system. The **command mode** and the **insert mode** are the two most common nodes in vi.

In order to start entering text in an empty file, we have to first switch from the command mode to the insert mode. To accomplish this, start typing the letter i. When we start typing, anything then the type will be entered into the file.

Type some short lines, then press Return at the end of each. **Vi** does not use word wrap like other word processors. It will break a line at the screen' edge. If we make a mistake, we can undo it by pressing the **Backspace** key. If the Backspace key on our computer is not working, then try the **ctrl + h** key combination.





17. free Command

In Kali Linux, the **'free'** command provides us the useful information about the **amount of RAM** available on a Linux machine. It also displays the entire amount of **physical memory** used and available space, as well as **swap memory** with **kernel buffers.**

Syntax:

```
# free
```

If we use the **free** command with the **-t** option, it would list the total line at the end.

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ free
               total        used        free      shared  buff/cache   available
Mem:         1957812      335056     1085592        7148      537164     1396964
Swap:         998396           0      998396

┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ free -t
               total        used        free      shared  buff/cache   available
Mem:         1957812      333268     1087372        7148      537172     1398760
Swap:         998396           0      998396
Total:       2956208      333268     2085768
```

18. sort Command

Using the **'sort'** command, we can sort the content of the text file, line by line. Sort is a standard command-line program which prints the lines of its input or concentration of all files listed in its argument list in sorted order.

Syntax:

```
# sort file name
```

We can reverse the order of any file's contents by using the **-r** sort.

Syntax

```
# sort -r
```

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ sort file.text
Java
JavaTpoint
Kali Linux
Kali Linux Operating System
Linux
Welcome to JavaTpoint

┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ sort -r file.text
Welcome to JavaTpoint
Linux
Kali Linux Operating System
Kali Linux
JavaTpoint
Java
```

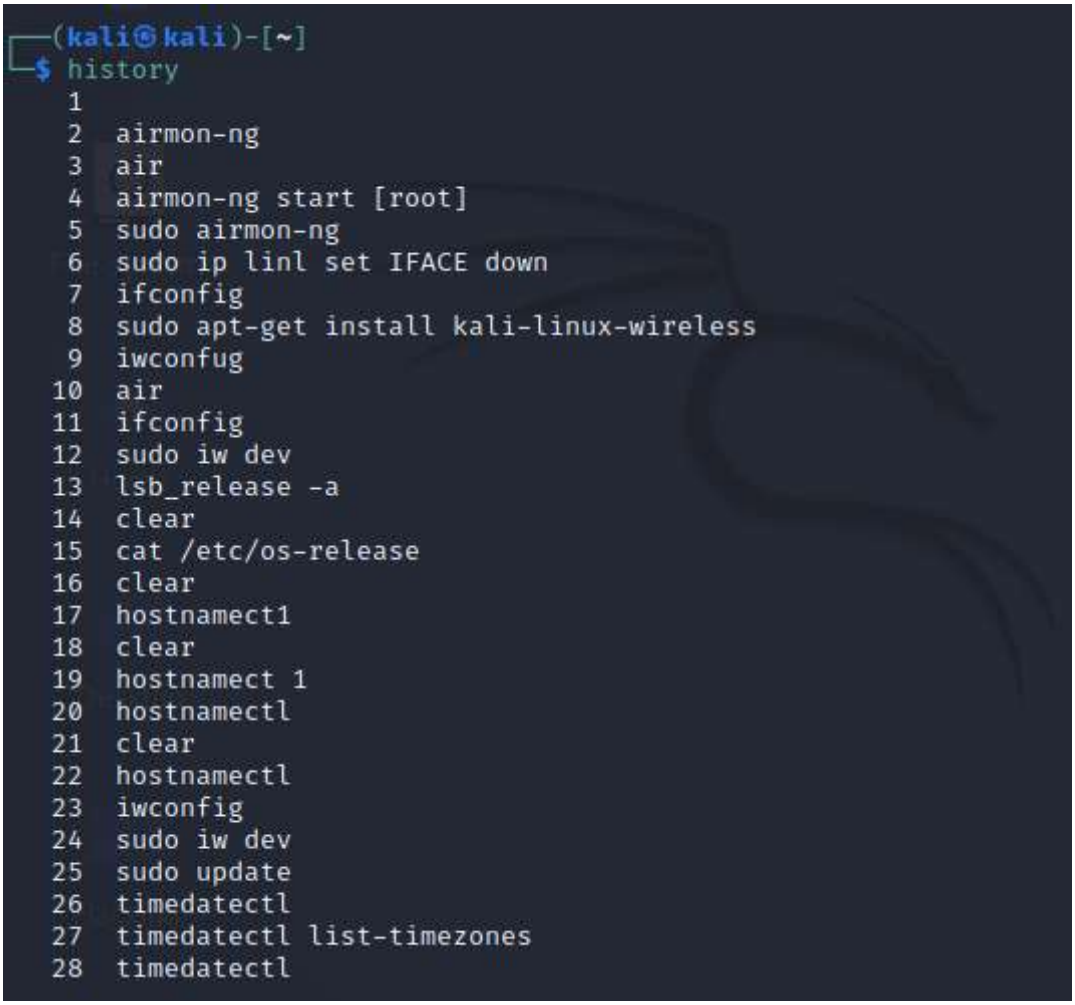
19. history Command

The **'history'** command is one of Kali Linux's most commonly used commands. The history command in the bash shell saves a history of commands entered that can be used to repeat commands.

We can run the history command by itself, and it will just print the **current user's bash history** on the screen, as shown below:

Syntax:

```
# history
```



20. Pwd Command

In Kali Linux, the **'Pwd'** command is used to **print working directory.** It gives us information about the directory we are now in. This is especially useful if we need to access the directory while in the middle of a complicated process.

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