

(SS64)

links...

Syntax

Search

An A-Z Index of the Linux command line: **bash + utilities**.

alias	Create an alias •
apropos	Search Help manual pages (man -k)
apt-get	Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)
aptitude	Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)
aspell	Spell Checker
awk	Find and Replace text, database sort/validate/index
b	
basename	Strip directory and suffix from filenames
bash	GNU Bourne-Again SHell
bc	Arbitrary precision calculator language
bg	Send to background
bind	Set or display readline key and function bindings •
break	Exit from a loop •
builtin	Run a shell builtin
bzip2	Compress or decompress named file(s)
c	
cal	Display a calendar
case	Conditionally perform a command
cat	Concatenate and print (display) the content of files
cd	Change Directory
cfdisk	Partition table manipulator for Linux
chattr	Change file attributes on a Linux file system
chgrp	Change group ownership
chmod	Change access permissions
chown	Change file owner and group
chroot	Run a command with a different root directory
chkconfig	System services (runlevel)
cksum	Print CRC checksum and byte counts
clear	Clear terminal screen
cmp	Compare two files
comm	Compare two sorted files line by line
command	Run a command - ignoring shell functions •
continue	Resume the next iteration of a loop •
cp	Copy one or more files to another location
cron	Daemon to execute scheduled commands
crontab	Schedule a command to run at a later time
csplit	Split a file into context-determined pieces
curl	Transfer data from or to a server
cut	Divide a file into several parts
d	
date	Display or change the date & time
dc	Desk Calculator
dd	Convert and copy a file, write disk headers, boot records
ddrescue	Data recovery tool
declare	Declare variables and give them attributes •
df	Display free disk space
diff	Display the differences between two files
diff3	Show differences among three files
dig	DNS lookup
dir	Briefly list directory contents
dircolors	Colour setup for 'ls'
dirname	Convert a full pathname to just a path
dirs	Display list of remembered directories
dmesg	Print kernel & driver messages
du	Estimate file space usage
e	
echo	Display message on screen •
egrep	Search file(s) for lines that match an extended expression
eject	Eject removable media
enable	Enable and disable builtin shell commands •

`env` Environment variables
`ethtool` Ethernet card settings
`eval` Evaluate several commands/arguments
`exec` Execute a command
`exit` Exit the shell
`expect` Automate arbitrary applications accessed over a terminal
`expand` Convert tabs to spaces
`export` Set an environment variable
`expr` Evaluate expressions

f

`false` Do nothing, unsuccessfully
`fdformat` Low-level format a floppy disk
`fdisk` Partition table manipulator for Linux
`fg` Send job to foreground
`fgrep` Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string
`file` Determine file type
`find` Search for files that meet a desired criteria
`fmt` Reformat paragraph text
`fold` Wrap text to fit a specified width.
`for` Expand *words*, and execute *commands*
`format` Format disks or tapes
`free` Display memory usage
`fsck` File system consistency check and repair
`ftp` File Transfer Protocol
`function` Define Function Macros
`fuser` Identify/kill the process that is accessing a file

g

`gawk` Find and Replace text within file(s)
`getopts` Parse positional parameters
`grep` Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern
`groupadd` Add a user security group
`groupdel` Delete a group
`groupmod` Modify a group
`groups` Print group names a user is in
`gzip` Compress or decompress named file(s)

h

`hash` Remember the full pathname of a name argument
`head` Output the first part of file(s)
`help` Display help for a built-in command •
`history` Command History
`hostname` Print or set system name
`htop` Interactive process viewer

i

`iconv` Convert the character set of a file
`id` Print user and group id's
`if` Conditionally perform a command
`ifconfig` Configure a network interface
`ifdown` Stop a network interface
`ifup` Start a network interface up
`import` Capture an X server screen and save the image to file
`install` Copy files and set attributes
`iostat` Report CPU and i/o statistics
`ip` Routing, devices and tunnels

j

`jobs` List active jobs •
`join` Join lines on a common field

k

`kill` Kill a process by specifying its PID
`killall` Kill processes by name

l

`less` Display output one screen at a time
`let` Perform arithmetic on shell variables •
`link` Create a link to a file
`ln` Create a symbolic link to a file
`local` Create a function variable •
`locate` Find files

logname Print current login name
logout Exit a login shell •
look Display lines beginning with a given string
lpc Line printer control program
lpr Off line print
lprint Print a file
lprintd Abort a print job
lprintq List the print queue
lprm Remove jobs from the print queue
lsattr List file attributes on a Linux second extended file system
lsblk List block devices
ls List information about file(s)
lsof List open files
lspci List all PCI devices

m

make Recompile a group of programs
man Help manual
mkdir Create new folder(s)
mkfifo Make FIFOs (named pipes)
mkfile Make a file
mkisofs Create an hybrid ISO9660/JOLIET/HFS filesystem
mknod Make block or character special files
mktemp Make a temporary file
more Display output one screen at a time
most Browse or page through a text file
mount Mount a file system
mtools Manipulate MS-DOS files
mtr Network diagnostics (traceroute/ping)
mv Move or rename files or directories
mmv Mass Move and rename (files)

n

nc Netcat, read and write data across networks
netstat Networking connections/stats
nice Set the priority of a command or job
nl Number lines and write files
nohup Run a command immune to hangups
notify-send Send desktop notifications
nslookup Query Internet name servers interactively

o

open Open a file in its default application
op Operator access

p

passwd Modify a user password
paste Merge lines of files
pathchk Check file name portability
Perf Performance analysis tools for Linux
ping Test a network connection
pgrep List processes by name
pkill Kill processes by name
popd Restore the previous value of the current directory
pr Prepare files for printing
printcap Printer capability database
printenv Print environment variables
printf Format and print data •
ps Process status
pushd Save and then change the current directory
pv Monitor the progress of data through a pipe
pwd Print Working Directory

q

quota Display disk usage and limits
quotacheck Scan a file system for disk usage

r

ram ram disk device
rar Archive files with compression
rcp Copy files between two machines
read Read a line from standard input •

readarray Read from stdin into an array variable •
readonly Mark variables/functions as readonly
reboot Reboot the system
rename Rename files
renice Alter priority of running processes
remsync Synchronize remote files via email
return Exit a shell function
rev Reverse lines of a file
rm Remove files
rmdir Remove folder(s)
rsync Remote file copy (Synchronize file trees)

s

screen Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh
scp Secure copy (remote file copy)
sdiff Merge two files interactively
sed Stream Editor
select Accept keyboard input
seq Print numeric sequences
set Manipulate shell variables and functions
sftp Secure File Transfer Program
shift Shift positional parameters
shopt Shell Options
shutdown Shutdown or restart linux
sleep Delay for a specified time
slocate Find files
sort Sort text files
source Run commands from a file '.'
split Split a file into fixed-size pieces
ss Socket Statistics
ssh Secure Shell client (remote login program)
stat Display file or file system status
strace Trace system calls and signals
su Substitute user identity
sudo Execute a command as another user
sum Print a checksum for a file
suspend Suspend execution of this shell •
sync Synchronize data on disk with memory

t

tail Output the last part of file
tar Store, list or extract files in an archive
tee Redirect output to multiple files
test Evaluate a conditional expression
time Measure Program running time
timeout Run a command with a time limit
times User and system times
touch Change file timestamps
top List processes running on the system
tput Set terminal-dependent capabilities, color, position
traceroute Trace Route to Host
trap Execute a command when the shell receives a signal •
tr Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
true Do nothing, successfully
tsort Topological sort
tty Print filename of terminal on stdin
type Describe a command •

u

ulimit Limit user resources •
umask Users file creation mask
umount Unmount a device
unalias Remove an alias •
uname Print system information
unexpand Convert spaces to tabs
uniq Uniquify files
units Convert units from one scale to another
unrar Extract files from a rar archive
unset Remove variable or function names

unshar	Unpack shell archive scripts
until	Execute commands (until error)
uptime	Show uptime
useradd	Create new user account
userdel	Delete a user account
usermod	Modify user account
users	List users currently logged in
uuencode	Encode a binary file
uudecode	Decode a file created by uuencode
v	
v	Verbosely list directory contents (<code>`ls -l -b'</code>)
vdir	Verbosely list directory contents (<code>`ls -l -b'</code>)
vi	Text Editor
vmstat	Report virtual memory statistics
w	
w	Show who is logged on and what they are doing
wait	Wait for a process to complete •
watch	Execute/display a program periodically
wc	Print byte, word, and line counts
whereis	Search the user's \$path, man pages and source files for a program
which	Search the user's \$path for a program file
while	Execute commands
who	Print all usernames currently logged in
whoami	Print the current user id and name (<code>`id -un'</code>)
wget	Retrieve web pages or files via HTTP, HTTPS or FTP
write	Send a message to another user
x	
xargs	Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)
xdg-open	Open a file or URL in the user's preferred application.
xz	Compress or decompress .xz and .lzma files
yes	Print a string until interrupted
zip	Package and compress (archive) files.
.	Run a command script in the current shell
!!	Run the last command again
###	Comment / Remark

Commands marked • are bash *built-ins*

Many commands particularly the Core Utils are also available under alternate [shells](#) (C shell, Korn shell etc).

More bash commands: [Linux Command Directory](#) from O'Reilly, GNU [CoreUtils](#).

[SS64 bash discussion forum](#)

[Links to other Sites, books etc](#)