

Linux Administration Shortcuts

Log terminal commands

script terminal_session_log

ls

date

exit <- Exits

Password protect file via vim

vim +X filename

Note: Will ask for password when editing

Clear screen

reset

Show detailed login info

lslogins

Replacement for top, 'htop'

yum install htop

htop

Repeat the most recent command

ls -la

!!

Go to last directory visited

cd -

Go to home directory

cd

List all directories in system

find / -type d | less

Show command history

```
# history
```

Check hard drive write speed

```
# dd if=/dev/zero of=/tmp/output.img bs=8k count=256k conv=fdatasync; rm -rf /tmp/output.img
```

Sample output

```
262144+0 records in
```

```
262144+0 records out
```

```
2147483648 bytes (2.1 GB) copied, 10.9827 s, 196 MB/s
```

List all directories in user home directory

```
# find $HOME -type d -ls | less
```

Create directory tree

```
# mkdir -p /home/robcas/{dir_a,dir_b,dir_c}
```

Note: Directories inside curly braces are at the same level

Delete directory with files inside

```
# rm -rf /test1/*
```

Copy file into multiple directories at once

```
# echo /usr/dir1 /var/dir1 /nas/dir3 | xargs -n 1 cp -v /home/admin/myfile.txt
```

Show differences between folders

```
# diff /home/admin /home/user1
```

Check large files on system (Example below shops top 10)

```
# du -a / | sort -n -r | head -n 10
```

Console Cursor Movement Shortcuts

CTRL

CTRL + U - Cuts text up until the cursor.

CTRL + K - Cuts text from the cursor until the end of the line

CTRL + Y - Pastes text

CTRL + E - Move cursor to end of line

CTRL + A - Move cursor to the beginning of the line

CTRL + W - Cut word behind cursor

CTRL + L – Clear screen

CTRL + H – Delete characters before cursor

Ctrl+S: Stop all output to the screen. This is particularly useful when running commands with a lot of long, verbose output, but you don't want to stop the command itself with Ctrl+C.

Ctrl+Q: Resume output to the screen after stopping it with Ctrl+S.

CTRL + XX : Go to beginning of the line then to last cursor position

ALT

ALT + Backspace - Delete the previous word

ALT +B – Jump to spaces backward

Alt + D – Delete characters in front to next space

ALT + F – Jump to spaces forward

INSERT

Shift + Insert - Pastes text into terminal

Cutting and Pasting

Bash includes some basic cut-and-paste features.

- **Ctrl+W**: Cut the word before the cursor, adding it to the clipboard.
- **Ctrl+K**: Cut the part of the line after the cursor, adding it to the clipboard.
- **Ctrl+U**: Cut the part of the line before the cursor, adding it to the clipboard.
- **Ctrl+Y**: Paste the last thing you cut from the clipboard. The y here stands for “yank”.

Capitalizing Characters

The bash shell can quickly convert characters to upper or lower case:

- **Alt+U**: Capitalize every character from the cursor to the end of the current word, converting the characters to upper case.
- **Alt+L**: Uncapitalize every character from the cursor to the end of the current word, converting the characters to lower case.
- **Alt+C**: Capitalize the character under the cursor. Your cursor will move to the end of the current word.

Working With Your Command History

RELATED ARTICLE

[How to Use Your Bash History in the Linux or macOS Terminal](#)

You can quickly scroll through your recent commands, which are stored in your user account’s [bash history](#) file:

- **Ctrl+P** or **Up Arrow**: Go to the previous command in the command history. Press the shortcut multiple times to walk back through the history.
- **Ctrl+N** or **Down Arrow**: Go to the next command in the command history. Press the shortcut multiple times to walk forward through the history.
- **Alt+R**: Revert any changes to a command you’ve pulled from your history if you’ve edited it.

Bash also has a special “recall” mode you can use to search for commands you’ve previously run:

- **Ctrl+R**: Recall the last command matching the characters you provide. Press this shortcut and start typing to search your bash history for a command.
- **Ctrl+O**: Run a command you found with Ctrl+R.
- **Ctrl+G**: Leave history searching mode without running a command.

