

List of Unix commands

This is a list of Unix commands as specified by IEEE Std 1003.1-2008, which is part of the Single UNIX Specification (SUS). These commands can be found on Unix operating systems and most Unix-like operating systems.

Contents

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IEEE Std 1003.1-2008 utilities

Name	Category	Status (Option code)	Description	First appeared
<u>admin</u>	<u>SCCS</u>	Optional (XSI)	Create and administer <u>SCCS</u> files	PWB UNIX
<u>alias</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Define or display aliases	
<u>ar</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Create and maintain <u>library</u> archives	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>asa</u>	Text processing	Optional (FR)	Interpret carriage-control characters	System V
<u>at</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Execute commands at a later time	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>awk</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Pattern scanning and processing language	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>basename</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Return non-directory portion of a pathname; see also <u>dirname</u>	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>batch</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Schedule commands to be executed in a batch queue	
<u>bc</u>	Misc	Mandatory	<u>Arbitrary-precision arithmetic</u> language	Version 6 AT&T UNIX
<u>bg</u>	Process management	Optional (UP)	Run jobs in the background	
<u>cc/c99</u>	C programming	Optional (CD)	<u>Compile</u> standard <u>C</u> programs	IEEE Std 1003.1-2001
<u>cal</u>	Misc	Optional (XSI)	Print a calendar	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
<u>cat</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Concatenate and print files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>cd</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Change the working directory	Version 6 AT&T UNIX
<u>cflow</u>	C programming	Optional (XSI)	Generate a C-language <u>call graph</u>	System V
<u>chgrp</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Change the file group ownership	PWB UNIX
<u>chmod</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Change the file modes/attributes/permissions	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>chown</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Change the file ownership	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>cksum</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Write file <u>checksums</u> and sizes	4.4BSD
<u>cmp</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Compare two files; see also <u>diff</u>	Version 1 AT&T

				UNIX
<u>comm</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Select or reject lines common to two files	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>command</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Execute a simple command	
<u>compress</u>	Filesystem	Optional (XSI)	Compress data	4.3BSD
<u>cp</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Copy files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>crontab</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Schedule periodic background work	System V
<u>csplit</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Split files based on context	PWB UNIX
<u>ctags</u>	C programming	Optional (SD)	Create a tags file	3BSD
<u>cut</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Cut out selected fields of each line of a file	System III
<u>cxref</u>	C programming	Optional (XSI)	Generate a C-language program cross-reference table	System V
<u>date</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Display the date and time	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>dd</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Convert and copy a file	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
<u>delta</u>	SCCS	Optional (XSI)	Make a delta (change) to an SCCS file	PWB UNIX
<u>df</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Report free disk space	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>diff</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Compare two files; see also cmp	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
<u>dirname</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Return the directory portion of a pathname; see also basename	System III
<u>du</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Estimate file space usage	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>echo</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Write arguments to standard output	Version 2 AT&T UNIX
<u>ed</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	The standard text editor	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>env</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Set the environment for command invocation	System III
<u>ex</u>	Text processing	Optional (XSI)	Text editor	1BSD
<u>expand</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Convert tabs to spaces	3BSD
<u>expr</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Evaluate arguments as an expression	Version 7 AT&T UNIX

<u>false</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Return false value	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>fc</u>	Misc	Optional (UP)	Process the command history list	
<u>fg</u>	Process management	Optional (UP)	Run jobs in the foreground	
<u>file</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Determine file type	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>find</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Find files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>fold</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Filter for folding lines	1BSD
<u>fort77</u>	FORTRAN77 programming	Obsolescent (FD)	<u>FORTRAN</u> compiler	XPG4
<u>fuser</u>	Process management	Optional (XSI)	List <u>process IDs</u> of all processes that have one or more files open	System V
<u>gencat</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Generate a formatted message catalog	
<u>get</u>	SCCS	Optional (XSI)	Get a version of an SCCS file	PWB UNIX
<u>getconf</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Get configuration values	
<u>getopts</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Parse utility options	
<u>grep</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Search text for a pattern	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>hash</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Hash database access method	
<u>head</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Copy the first part of files	PWB UNIX
<u>iconv</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Codeset conversion	HP-UX
<u>id</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Return user identity	System V
<u>ipcrm</u>	Misc	Optional (XSI)	Remove a message queue, semaphore set, or shared memory segment identifier	System V
<u>ipcs</u>	Misc	Optional (XSI)	Report interprocess communication facilities status	System V
<u>jobs</u>	Process management	Optional (UP)	Display status of jobs in the current session	
<u>join</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Merges two sorted text files based on the presence of a common field	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>kill</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Terminate or signal processes	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>lex</u>	C programming	Optional (CD)	Generate programs for <u>lexical tasks</u>	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>link</u>	Filesystem	Optional (XSI)	Create a hard link to a file	Version 1 AT&T UNIX

<u>ln</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Link files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>locale</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Get locale-specific information	
<u>localedef</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Define locale environment	
<u>logger</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Log messages	4.3BSD
<u>logname</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Return the user's login name	4.4BSD
<u>lp</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Send files to a printer	System V
<u>ls</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	List directory contents	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>m4</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Macro processor	PWB UNIX
<u>mailx</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Process messages	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>make</u>	Programming	Optional (SD)	Maintain, update, and regenerate groups of programs	PWB UNIX
<u>man</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Display system documentation	Version 2 AT&T UNIX
<u>mesg</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Permit or deny messages	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>mkdir</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Make directories	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>mkfifo</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Make <u>FIFO</u> special files	4.4BSD
<u>more</u>	Text processing	Optional (UP)	Display files on a page-by-page basis	3BSD
<u>mv</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Move or rename files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>newgrp</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Change to a new group	Version 6 AT&T UNIX
<u>nice</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Invoke a utility with an altered nice value	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>n1</u>	Text processing	Optional (XSI)	Line numbering filter	System III
<u>nm</u>	C programming	Optional (SD, XSI)	Write the name list of an <u>object file</u>	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>nohup</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Invoke a utility immune to <u>hangups</u>	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>od</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Dump files in various formats	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>paste</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Merge corresponding or subsequent lines of files	Version 32V AT&T

				UNIX
<u>patch</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Apply changes to files	4.3BSD
<u>pathchk</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Check pathnames	
<u>pax</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Portable archive interchange	4.4BSD
<u>pr</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Print files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>printf</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Write formatted output	4.3BSD- Reno
<u>prs</u>	SCCS	Optional (XSI)	Print an SCCS file	PWB UNIX
<u>ps</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Report process status	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>pwd</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Print working directory	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
<u>qalter</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Alter batch job	
<u>qdel</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Delete batch jobs	
<u>qhold</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Hold batch jobs	
<u>qmove</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Move batch jobs	
<u>qmsg</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Send message to batch jobs	
<u>qrerun</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Rerun batch jobs	
<u>qrls</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Release batch jobs	
<u>qselect</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Select batch jobs	
<u>qsig</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Signal batch jobs	
<u>qstat</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Show status of batch jobs	
<u>qsub</u>	Batch utilities	Obsolescent (BE)	Submit a script	
<u>read</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Read a line from standard input	
<u>renice</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Set nice values of running processes	4BSD
<u>rm</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Remove directory entries	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>rmde1</u>	SCCS	Optional (XSI)	Remove a delta from an SCCS file	PWB UNIX
<u>rmdir</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Remove directories, if they are empty.	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>sact</u>	SCCS	Optional (XSI)	Print current SCCS file-editing activity	System III
<u>sccs</u>	<u>SCCS</u>	Optional (XSI)	Front end for the SCCS subsystem	4.3BSD
<u>sed</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Stream editor	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>sh</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	<u>Shell</u> , the standard command language	Version 7

			interpreter	AT&T UNIX (in earlier versions, sh was either the Thompson shell or the PWB shell)
<u>sleep</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Suspend execution for an interval	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>sort</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Sort, merge, or sequence check text files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>split</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Split files into pieces	Version 3 AT&T UNIX
<u>strings</u>	C programming	Mandatory	Find printable strings in files	2BSD
<u>strip</u>	C programming	Optional (SD)	Remove unnecessary information from executable files	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>stty</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Set the options for a terminal	Version 2 AT&T UNIX
<u>tabs</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Set terminal tabs	PWB UNIX
<u>tail</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Copy the last part of a file	PWB UNIX
<u>talk</u>	Misc	Optional (UP)	Talk to another user	4.2BSD
<u>tee</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Duplicate the <u>standard output</u>	Version 5 AT&T UNIX
<u>test</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Evaluate <u>expression</u>	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>time</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Time a simple command	Version 3 AT&T UNIX
<u>touch</u>	Filesystem	Mandatory	Change file access and modification times	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>tput</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Change <u>terminal</u> characteristics	System V
<u>tr</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Translate characters	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>true</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Return true value	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>tsort</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Topological sort	Version 7 AT&T UNIX

<u>tty</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Return user's <u>terminal</u> name	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>type</u>	Misc	Optional (XSI)	Displays how a name would be interpreted if used as a command	
<u>ulimit</u>	Misc	Optional (XSI)	Set or report file size limit	
<u>umask</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Get or set the file mode creation mask	System III
<u>unalias</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Remove alias definitions	
<u>uname</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Return system name	PWB UNIX
<u>uncompress</u>	Misc	Optional (XSI)	Expand compressed data	4.3BSD
<u>unexpand</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Convert spaces to tabs	3BSD
<u>unget</u>	SCCS	Optional (XSI)	Undo a previous get of an SCCS file	System III
<u>uniq</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Report or filter out repeated lines in a file	Version 3 AT&T UNIX
<u>unlink</u>	Filesystem	Optional (XSI)	Call the unlink function	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>uucp</u>	Network	Optional (UU)	System-to-system copy	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>uudecode</u>	Network	Mandatory	Decode a binary file	4BSD
<u>uuencode</u>	Network	Mandatory	Encode a binary file	4BSD
<u>uustat</u>	Network	Optional (UU)	<u>uucp</u> status inquiry and job control	System III
<u>uux</u>	Process management	Optional (UU)	Remote command execution	Version 7 AT&T UNIX
<u>val</u>	SCCS	Optional (XSI)	Validate SCCS files	System III
<u>vi</u>	Text processing	Optional (UP)	Screen-oriented (visual) display editor	1BSD
<u>wait</u>	Process management	Mandatory	Await process completion	Version 4 AT&T UNIX
<u>wc</u>	Text processing	Mandatory	Line, word and byte or character count	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>what</u>	<u>SCCS</u>	Optional (XSI)	Identify SCCS files	PWB UNIX
<u>who</u>	System administration	Mandatory	Display who is on the system	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>write</u>	Misc	Mandatory	Write to another user's terminal	Version 1 AT&T UNIX
<u>xargs</u>	Shell programming	Mandatory	Construct argument lists and invoke utility	PWB UNIX
<u>yacc</u>	C programming	Optional (CD)	Yet another <u>compiler</u> compiler	PWB UNIX

<u>zcat</u>	Text processing	Optional (XSI)	Expand and concatenate data	4.3BSD
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See also

- [List of GNU Core Utilities commands](#)
- [List of GNOME applications](#)
- [List of GNU packages](#)
- [List of KDE applications](#)
- [List of Unix daemons](#)
- [List of web browsers for Unix and Unix-like operating systems](#)
- [Unix philosophy](#)
- [util-linux](#)

Footnotes

External links

- [IEEE Std 1003.1,2004 specifications \(https://pubs.opengroup.org/onlinepubs/000095399/\)](https://pubs.opengroup.org/onlinepubs/000095399/)
- [IEEE Std 1003.1,2008 specifications \(https://pubs.opengroup.org/onlinepubs/9699919799/\)](https://pubs.opengroup.org/onlinepubs/9699919799/)
- [Rosetta Stone For *Nix \(https://bhami.com/rosetta.html\)](https://bhami.com/rosetta.html) – configurable list of equivalent programs for *nix systems.
- [The Unix Acronym List: Unix Commands \(http://roesler-ac.de/wolfram/acro/Cmd.htm\)](http://roesler-ac.de/wolfram/acro/Cmd.htm) – explains the names of many Unix commands.

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