Linux and Unix Commands

Unix, Linux, and variants

Quick links

Unix ABCs

Unix, which is not an acronym, was developed in the late 1960's by many of the same people who helped create the C programming language. Today, however, Unix is not just the work of a couple of programmers. Other organizations, institutes, and individuals contributed significant additions to the modern Unix system.

- See our Unix definition for additional related information.

Linux ABCs

Developed by Linus Torvalds and further elaborated by a number of developers throughout the world, Linux (*lee'nuhks/ or /li'nuks/,_not_/li:'nuhks)* is a freely available multitasking and multiuser operating system. From the outset, Linux was placed under General Public License (GPL). The system can be distributed, used, and expanded free of charge. In this way, developers have access to all the source codes, thus being able to integrate new functions or to find and eliminate programming bugs quickly. Thereby drivers for new adapters (SCSI controller, graphics cards, etc.) can be integrated very rapidly.

- See our Linux definition for related information and variant information.

MS-DOS vs. Linux and Unix

If you can navigate a computer using MS-DOS or the Windows command line, you should be able to quickly pick up on the navigation of Linux and Unix. In the below chart is a listing of common MS-DOS commands with their Linux and Unix counterpart.

MS-DOS	Linux and Unix
attrib	chmod
backup	tar
dir	ls
cls	clear
copy	cp
del	rm
deltree	rm -R rmdir
edit	vi pico
format	fdformat, mount, and umount

move and rename	mv
Type	less <file>
cd	cd chdir
more < file	more file
md	mkdir
win	startx

* See the Linux and Unix overview page for a brief description on all commands on one page.

A a2p | ac | access | alias | agrep | apropos | apt-cache | apt-get | aptitude | ar | arch | arp | as | aspell | at | awk

B basename | bash | bc | bdiff | bfs | bg | biff | break | bs | bye

C cal | calendar | cancel | cat | cc | cd | chdir | checkeq | checknr | chfn | chgrp | chkey | chmod | chown | chroot | chsh | cksum | clear | cls | cmp | col | comm | compress | continue | copy | cp | cpio | crontab | crypt | csh | csplit | ctags | cu | curl | cut

D date | dc | dd | df | depmod | deroff | dhclient | diff | dig | dircmp | dirname | dmesg | dos2unix | dpkg | dpost | du

E echo | ed | edit | egrep | eject | elm | emacs | enable | env | eqn | ex | exit | expand | expr

F fc | fdisk | fg | fgrep | file | find | findsmb | finger | fmt | fold | for | foreach | fromdos | fsck | ftp | fuser

G gawk | getfacl | gethostname | gpasswd | gprof | grep | groupadd | groupdel | groupmod | gunzip | gview | gvim | gzip

H halt | hash | hashstat | head | help | history | host | hostid | hostname

I id | ifconfig | ifdown | ifup | ip | init | info | iostat | isalist | iwconfig

J jobs | join

K keylogin | kill | killall | ksh

L last | ld | ldd | less | lex | link | ln | lo | locate | login | logname | logout | losetup | lp | lpadmin | lpc | lpq | lpr | lprm | lpstat | ls | lsof | lzcat | lzma

M mach | mail | mailcompat | mailx | make | man | merge | mesg | mii-tool | mkdir | mkfs | modprobe | more | mount | mt | mv | myisamchk | mysql

N nc | neqn | netstat | newalias | newform | newgrp | nice | niscat | nischmod | nischown | nischttl | nisdefaults | nisgrep | nismatch | nispasswd | nistbladm | nl | nmap | nohup | nroff | nslookup

O od | on | onintr | optisa

P pack | pagesize | passwd | paste | pax | pcat | perl | pg | pgrep | pico | pine | ping | pkill | poweroff | pr | printenv | priocntl | printf | ps | pstree | pvs | pwd

Q quit

R rcp | readlink | reboot | red | rehash | remsh | renice | repeat | replace | rgview | rgvim | rlogin | rm | rmail | rmdir | rn | route | rpcinfo | rsh | rsync | rview | rvim

S   s2p | sag | sar | scp | screen | script | sdiff | sed | sendmail | service | set | setenv | setfacl | sethostname | settime | sftp | sh | shred | shutdown | signals | sleep | slogin | smbclient | sort | spell | split | stat | stop | strftime | strip | stty | su | sudo | swapoff | swapon | sysinfo | sysklogd

T   tabs | tac | tail | talk | tar | tbl | tcopy | tcpdump | tee | telinit | telnet | test | time | timex | todos | top | touch | tput | tr | traceroute | tree | troff | tty

U   ul | umask | unalias | uname | uncompress | unhash | uniq | unlzma | unmount | unpack | untar | until | unxz | unzip | uptime | useradd | userdel | usermod

V   vacation | vedit | vgrind | vi | view | vim | vipw | vmstat

W   w | wait | wall | wc | wget | whereis | whatis | which | while| who | whoami | whois | write

X   X | xargs | xfd | xhost | xlsfonts | xorg | xset | xterm | xrdb | xz | xzcat

Y   yacc | yes | yppasswd | yum

Z   zcat | zip | zipcloak | zipinfo | zipnote | zipsplit

* Additional information about a specified command for your Unix or Linux variant can be found by using the **man** command.