

Linux and Unix Commands

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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 lpadm 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 setfac sethostname settime sftp sh shred shutdown signals sleep slogin smbclient sort spell split stat stop strftime strip stty su sudo swapoff swapon sysinfo syslogd
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 xrdp 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.