RHCSA – SA 1 LAB BOOK

Chapter 4 - Getting Help in Red Hat Enterprise Linux Reading Manual Pages

Offline: Technical Description

Online: Customer Portal

1. Command = --help
2. Man Pages = Every command has man page.
   Man page manual containing 9 sections in it.

man man:

- Executable programs or shell commands
- System calls (functions provided by the kernel)
- Library calls (functions within program libraries)
- Special files (usually found in /dev)
- File formats and conventions e.g. /etc/passwd
- Games
- Miscellaneous (including macro packages and conventions)
- System administration commands (usually only for root)
- Kernel routines [Non-standard]

Note: In man page, command, syntax, description, example, options, author, and see also, copyright.

Command pinfo: General documentation

Navigating Man Pages

Spacebar: Scroll forward (down) one screen

PageDown: Scroll forward (down) once screen

PageUp: Scroll backward (up) one screen

DownArrow: Scroll forward (down) one line

UpArrow: Scroll backward (up) one line

D: Scroll forward (down) one half-screen

U: Scroll backward (up) one half-screen

/: string Search forward (down) for string in the man page

N: Repeat previous search forward (down) in the main page

Shift+N: Repeat previous search backward (up) in the man page

G: Go to start of the man page.

Shift + G: Go the end of the man page.

Q: Exit man and return to the command shell prompt.

Searching For Man Pages by Keyword

- A keyword search of man pages is performed with man -k keyword, which displays a list of keyword-matching man page topics with section numbers.

  Command: [student@desktopX ~] $ man -k passwd

- Popular system administration topics are in sections 1 (user commands), 5 (file formats), and 8 (administrative commands).
- Administrators using certain troubleshooting tools also use section 2(system calls).
- The remaining sections are generally for programmer reference or advanced administration.

Reading Info Documentation

- Man pages have a format useful as a command reference, but less useful as general documentation.
- GNU Project developed a different online documentation system, known as GNU Info.
- To launch the Info document viewer, use the pinfo command.
- The Info documentation is a comprehensive document.
- Some commands and utilities have both man pages and info documentation.

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