

( SS64 )

[Links](#)[Syntax](#)

## An A-Z Index of the **Bash** command line for Linux.

**alias** Create an alias •  
**apropos** Search Help manual pages (man -k)  
**apt-get** Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)  
**aptitude** Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)  
**aspell** Spell Checker  
**awk** Find and Replace text, database sort/validate/index

b

**basename** Strip directory and suffix from filenames  
**bash** GNU Bourne-Again SHell  
**bc** Arbitrary precision calculator language  
**bg** Send to background  
**break** Exit from a loop •  
**builtin** Run a shell builtin  
**bzip2** Compress or decompress named file(s)

c

**cal** Display a calendar  
**case** Conditionally perform a command  
**cat** Concatenate and print (display) the content of files  
**cd** Change Directory  
**cfdisk** Partition table manipulator for Linux  
**chgrp** Change group ownership  
**chmod** Change access permissions  
**chown** Change file owner and group  
**chroot** Run a command with a different root directory  
**chkconfig** System services (runlevel)  
**cksum** Print CRC checksum and byte counts  
**clear** Clear terminal screen  
**cmp** Compare two files  
**comm** Compare two sorted files line by line  
**command** Run a command - ignoring shell functions •  
**continue** Resume the next iteration of a loop •  
**cp** Copy one or more files to another location  
**cron** Daemon to execute scheduled commands  
**crontab** Schedule a command to run at a later time  
**csplit** Split a file into context-determined pieces  
**cut** Divide a file into several parts

d

**date** Display or change the date & time  
**dc** Desk Calculator  
**dd** Convert and copy a file, write disk headers, boot records  
**ddrescue** Data recovery tool  
**declare** Declare variables and give them attributes •  
**df** Display free disk space  
**diff** Display the differences between two files  
**diff3** Show differences among three files  
**dig** DNS lookup  
**dir** Briefly list directory contents  
**dircolors** Colour setup for 'ls'  
**dirname** Convert a full pathname to just a path  
**dirs** Display list of remembered directories  
**dmesg** Print kernel & driver messages  
**du** Estimate file space usage

e

**echo** Display message on screen •  
**egrep** Search file(s) for lines that match an extended expression  
**eject** Eject removable media  
**enable** Enable and disable builtin shell commands •

<a href="#">env</a>	Environment variables
<a href="#">ethtool</a>	Ethernet card settings
<a href="#">eval</a>	Evaluate several commands/arguments
<a href="#">exec</a>	Execute a command
<a href="#">exit</a>	Exit the shell
<a href="#">expect</a>	Automate arbitrary applications accessed over a terminal
<a href="#">expand</a>	Convert tabs to spaces
<a href="#">export</a>	Set an environment variable
<a href="#">expr</a>	Evaluate expressions
f	
<a href="#">false</a>	Do nothing, unsuccessfully
<a href="#">fdformat</a>	Low-level format a floppy disk
<a href="#">fdisk</a>	Partition table manipulator for Linux
<a href="#">fg</a>	Send job to foreground
<a href="#">fgrep</a>	Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string
<a href="#">file</a>	Determine file type
<a href="#">find</a>	Search for files that meet a desired criteria
<a href="#">fmt</a>	Reformat paragraph text
<a href="#">fold</a>	Wrap text to fit a specified width.
<a href="#">for</a>	Expand <i>words</i> , and execute <i>commands</i>
<a href="#">format</a>	Format disks or tapes
<a href="#">free</a>	Display memory usage
<a href="#">fsck</a>	File system consistency check and repair
<a href="#">ftp</a>	File Transfer Protocol
<a href="#">function</a>	Define Function Macros
<a href="#">fuser</a>	Identify/kill the process that is accessing a file
g	
<a href="#">gawk</a>	Find and Replace text within file(s)
<a href="#">getopts</a>	Parse positional parameters
<a href="#">grep</a>	Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern
<a href="#">groupadd</a>	Add a user security group
<a href="#">groupdel</a>	Delete a group
<a href="#">groupmod</a>	Modify a group
<a href="#">groups</a>	Print group names a user is in
<a href="#">gzip</a>	Compress or decompress named file(s)
h	
<a href="#">hash</a>	Remember the full pathname of a name argument
<a href="#">head</a>	Output the first part of file(s)
<a href="#">help</a>	Display help for a built-in command •
<a href="#">history</a>	Command History
<a href="#">hostname</a>	Print or set system name
i	
<a href="#">iconv</a>	Convert the character set of a file
<a href="#">id</a>	Print user and group id's
<a href="#">if</a>	Conditionally perform a command
<a href="#">ifconfig</a>	Configure a network interface
<a href="#">ifdown</a>	Stop a network interface
<a href="#">ifup</a>	Start a network interface up
<a href="#">import</a>	Capture an X server screen and save the image to file
<a href="#">install</a>	Copy files and set attributes
j	
<a href="#">jobs</a>	List active jobs •
<a href="#">join</a>	Join lines on a common field
k	
<a href="#">kill</a>	Stop a process from running
<a href="#">killall</a>	Kill processes by name
l	
<a href="#">less</a>	Display output one screen at a time
<a href="#">let</a>	Perform arithmetic on shell variables •
<a href="#">ln</a>	Create a symbolic link to a file
<a href="#">local</a>	Create variables •
<a href="#">locate</a>	Find files
<a href="#">logname</a>	Print current login name

```

logout      Exit a login shell •
look        Display lines beginning with a given string
lpc          Line printer control program
lpr          Off line print
lprint       Print a file
lprintd      Abort a print job
lprintq      List the print queue
lprm         Remove jobs from the print queue
ls           List information about file(s)
lsof         List open files

m
make         Recompile a group of programs
man          Help manual
mkdir        Create new folder(s)
mkfifo       Make FIFOs (named pipes)
mkisofs      Create an hybrid ISO9660/JOLIET/HFS filesystem
mknod        Make block or character special files
more         Display output one screen at a time
mount        Mount a file system
mtools       Manipulate MS-DOS files
mtr          Network diagnostics (traceroute/ping)
mv           Move or rename files or directories
mmv          Mass Move and rename (files)

n
netstat      Networking information
nice         Set the priority of a command or job
nl           Number lines and write files
nohup        Run a command immune to hangups
notify-send  Send desktop notifications
nslookup     Query Internet name servers interactively

o
open         Open a file in its default application
op           Operator access

p
passwd       Modify a user password
paste        Merge lines of files
pathchk      Check file name portability
ping         Test a network connection
pkill        Stop processes from running
popd         Restore the previous value of the current directory
pr           Prepare files for printing
printcap     Printer capability database
printenv     Print environment variables
printf       Format and print data •
ps           Process status
pushd        Save and then change the current directory
pwd          Print Working Directory

q
quota        Display disk usage and limits
quotacheck   Scan a file system for disk usage
quotactl     Set disk quotas

r
ram           ram disk device
rcp           Copy files between two machines
read         Read a line from standard input •
readarray    Read from stdin into an array variable •
readonly     Mark variables/functions as readonly
reboot       Reboot the system
rename       Rename files
renice       Alter priority of running processes
remsync      Synchronize remote files via email
return       Exit a shell function
rev          Reverse lines of a file

```

<code>rm</code>	Remove files
<code>rmdir</code>	Remove folder(s)
<code>rsync</code>	Remote file copy (Synchronize file trees)
s	
<code>screen</code>	Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh
<code>scp</code>	Secure copy (remote file copy)
<code>sdiff</code>	Merge two files interactively
<code>sed</code>	Stream Editor
<code>select</code>	Accept keyboard input
<code>seq</code>	Print numeric sequences
<code>set</code>	Manipulate shell variables and functions
<code>sftp</code>	Secure File Transfer Program
<code>shift</code>	Shift positional parameters
<code>shopt</code>	Shell Options
<code>shutdown</code>	Shutdown or restart linux
<code>sleep</code>	Delay for a specified time
<code>slocate</code>	Find files
<code>sort</code>	Sort text files
<code>source</code>	Run commands from a file '.'
<code>split</code>	Split a file into fixed-size pieces
<code>ssh</code>	Secure Shell client (remote login program)
<code>strace</code>	Trace system calls and signals
<code>su</code>	Substitute user identity
<code>sudo</code>	Execute a command as another user
<code>sum</code>	Print a checksum for a file
<code>suspend</code>	Suspend execution of this shell •
<code>symlink</code>	Make a new name for a file
<code>sync</code>	Synchronize data on disk with memory
t	
<code>tail</code>	Output the last part of file
<code>tar</code>	Tape ARchiver
<code>tee</code>	Redirect output to multiple files
<code>test</code>	Evaluate a conditional expression
<code>time</code>	Measure Program running time
<code>timeout</code>	Run a command with a time limit
<code>times</code>	User and system times
<code>touch</code>	Change file timestamps
<code>top</code>	List processes running on the system
<code>traceroute</code>	Trace Route to Host
<code>trap</code>	Run a command when a signal is set(bourne)
<code>tr</code>	Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
<code>true</code>	Do nothing, successfully
<code>tsort</code>	Topological sort
<code>tty</code>	Print filename of terminal on stdin
<code>type</code>	Describe a command •
u	
<code>ulimit</code>	Limit user resources •
<code>umask</code>	Users file creation mask
<code>umount</code>	Unmount a device
<code>unalias</code>	Remove an alias •
<code>uname</code>	Print system information
<code>unexpand</code>	Convert spaces to tabs
<code>uniq</code>	Uniquify files
<code>units</code>	Convert units from one scale to another
<code>unset</code>	Remove variable or function names
<code>unshar</code>	Unpack shell archive scripts
<code>until</code>	Execute commands (until error)
<code>uptime</code>	Show uptime
<code>useradd</code>	Create new user account
<code>userdel</code>	Delete a user account
<code>usermod</code>	Modify user account
<code>users</code>	List users currently logged in
<code>uuencode</code>	Encode a binary file

<a href="#">uudecode</a>	Decode a file created by uuencode
v	
<a href="#">v</a>	Verbosely list directory contents ( <code>`ls -l -b'</code> )
<a href="#">vdir</a>	Verbosely list directory contents ( <code>`ls -l -b'</code> )
<a href="#">vi</a>	Text Editor
<a href="#">vmstat</a>	Report virtual memory statistics
w	
<a href="#">wait</a>	Wait for a process to complete •
<a href="#">watch</a>	Execute/display a program periodically
<a href="#">wc</a>	Print byte, word, and line counts
<a href="#">whereis</a>	Search the user's \$path, man pages and source files for a program
<a href="#">which</a>	Search the user's \$path for a program file
<a href="#">while</a>	Execute commands
<a href="#">who</a>	Print all usernames currently logged in
<a href="#">whoami</a>	Print the current user id and name ( <code>`id -un'</code> )
<a href="#">wget</a>	Retrieve web pages or files via HTTP, HTTPS or FTP
<a href="#">write</a>	Send a message to another user
x	
<a href="#">xargs</a>	Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)
<a href="#">xdg-open</a>	Open a file or URL in the user's preferred application.
<a href="#">yes</a>	Print a string until interrupted
<a href="#">.</a>	Run a command script in the current shell
<a href="#">!!</a>	Run the last command again
<a href="#">###</a>	Comment / Remark

Commands marked • are bash *built-ins*

Many commands particularly the Core Utils are also available under alternate [shells](#) (C shell, Korn shell etc).

More bash commands: [Linux Command Directory](#) from O'Reilly, GNU [CoreUtils](#).

[SS64 bash discussion forum](#)

[Links to other Sites, books etc](#)

