

Bandit over the wire

INTRO

Manual Page

↳ It is a documentation of diff commands available in unix (or unix like operating system).

Syntax: man Command_name

Ex man Printf

output:

PRINTF(1) → 1 in the braces mean section 1. The manual split into 9 sections

NAME

Printf - format and print data

SYNOPSIS

Printf FORMAT [ARGUMENT]...

Printf OPTION

DESCRIPTION

... soon

Sections

Section

Description

1

General Command

2

System Calls

3

Library Functions, covering in Particular the C standard library.

4

Special files (usually devices, those found in /dev) and drivers.

5 File formats and Conventions

6 Games and Screensavers

7 Miscellanea

8 System administration Commands and daemons

9 Kernel routines [Non standard]

Note + u can also find manual page for man using

"man man" command

also
We can see the manual page from a Particular section

man section <command>

Ex man 25 passwd

options/flags

1) -a

This option helps us to show all man page of a Command. sections will come in ascending order that is lowest section number will come first

Ex man -a passwd

First it shows manual entry for section 1 then type q to quit & Press enter to view next page then it shows section 1ss1 and so on.

2) -w

It Prints the location of cat flag that will be displayed rather than content of file

Ex: man -w printf

output: /usr/share/man/man1/printf.1.gz

Note: It only shows the path for section 1

To view all sections we can use -a flag with it

Ex: man -aw passwd

/usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1.gz

/usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1ss1.gz

/usr/share/man/man5/passwd.5.gz

3) -f

It displays the short description of Command from all sections if available

Ex: man -f passwd

passwd(1ss1) - Compute password hashes

passwd(1) - Change user Password

passwd(5) - the Password file

Note: It is same as Whatis

Whatis passwd → gives the same output

4) -k

If u don't know the exact Command then we can use key flag & search using keyword

Ex: `man -k passwd`

`chpasswd (8)` - update group Passwords in batch mode

`chpasswd (8)` - update Passwords in batch mode

!
etc
=

help Command
= = =

If there is no man Page, the Command might be a shell built-in then we use help Command to get info

Syntax: `help Commandname`

Ex: `help cd`

Note: u may get

Command 'help' not found

It is because ur shell may not be bash u can check ur shell using

`$ echo $SHELL` → Prints the shell for the current user

`/usr/bin/zsh`
↳ shell name

If the shell is not bash then we get 'command help not found' error we can run bash shell using "bash"

`$ bash`

Current running

Now if we check our shell

`$ ps -p $$`

PID	TTY	TIME	CMD
10716	pts/0	00:00:00	bash

Now we can run help command

Shell-builtin
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A shell builtin is a command or function, called from a shell that is executed directly in the shell itself instead of an external Executable Program which the shell would load & execute.

We can find out if the command is a shell builtin or not using type -a

Ex type -a ls

ls is an alias for ls --color=auto

ls is /usr/bin/ls

ls is /bin/ls

The shell invoke /usr/bin/ls when you just type ls command at shell prompt

type -a cd

cd is a shell builtin

diff blw

/bin & /usr/bin
==

/bin - contains commands that may be used by both system administrator and by users but which are required when no other filesystems are mounted (e.g. in single user mode). It may also contain commands which are used indirectly by scripts.

⇒ /bin contain executables which are required by the system for emergency repairs of single user mode. /usr/bin contain binaries that aren't required

/usr/bin → is the primary director of executable commands

options/flags
= =

1) -d

↳ gives the short description

Ex help -d cd

cd - change the shell working directory

2) -m

↳ gives the output in the manpage format

Ex help -m cd

output:

Name:

cd - change the shell working directory

SYNOPSIS

cd [-L] [-P] [-e] [-@] [dir]

DESCRIPTION

Change the shell working directory

!

!

So on

3) -s

↳ shows the usage of the command

Ex help -s cd

cd: cd [-L] [-P] [-e] [-@] [dir]

→ same as synopsis & manpage