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# Top Linux Interview Questions & Answers

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Linux is one of the best-known operating system, and is assembled under the model of free and open-source software development and distribution. Developed in the '90s, the operating system has a wide user base and is very popular among software developers as it offers more flexibility and configuration options.

Linux professionals are in great demand in the industry and if you are looking to crack your next interview, here are some of the common **Linux Interview Questions** (with answers) to help your Linux interview preparation:

## Q1. What operating system is the Linux based on?

**Ans.** UNIX

## **Q2. What is the difference between Linux and UNIX?**

**Ans.** Linux is a non-propriety free, open sourced OS, while UNIX started as a propriety OS.

## **Q3. Is it legal to edit the Linux kernel?**

**Ans.** Yes, as it is under General Public License (GPL) and anyone can edit.

## **Q4. What are the basic components of Linux?**

**Ans.** It has the same components as any typical OS: kernel, shells and GUIs, system utilities and application program.

## **Q5. What is LILO?**

**Ans.** LILO stands for Linux Loader and is a boot loader to load the operating system in the main memory.

## **Q6. Which command would you use if you want to remove the password assigned to a group?**

**Ans.** The `gpasswd -r` removes the password assigned to a group.

## **Q7. What is BASH?**

**Ans.** BASH is short for Bourne Again SHell. Written by Steve Bourne, it acts as the default shell for most Linux systems since it has been adapted.

## **Q8. What is the difference between BASH and DOS?**

**Ans.** There are three key differences between BASH and DOS:

- BASH commands are case sensitive while DOS commands are not
- BASH follows no convention in naming files, while DOS follows a convention
- Under BASH, / character serves as a directory separator while in DOS \ serves as the directory separator

## **Q9. What is the alternative method to a GUI installation in Linux?**

**Ans.** Linux provides text base installation as the alternative method of GUI installation.

## **Q10. What is the root account in Linux?**

**Ans.** The root account is like a systems administrator account, and allows full control of the system.

## **Q11. How can you find out how much memory Linux is using?**

**Ans.** From a command shell, use the “concatenate” command: cat /proc/meminfo for memory usage information.

## **Q12. Does the Ctrl+Alt+Del key combination work on Linux?**

**Ans.** Yes

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## **Q13. How do you create a new user without logging on as a root user?**

**Ans.** Using the **su** command

## **Q14. What is the minimum number of partitions that you need to install Linux?**

**Ans.** Minimum 2 partitions are needed for installing Linux

**Q15. Which command would you use to create a file system on a new hard drive?**

**Ans.** The **mkfs** command

**Q16. Which command is used to review boot messages?**

**Ans.** The **dmesg** command

**Q17. Which file is used to automatically mount file systems?**

**Ans.** Fstab file

**Q18. What is the difference between internal and external commands?**

**Ans.** Internal commands are those which are already loaded in the system. External commands are those which can be executed any time and are independent.

**Q19. What is the difference between home directory and working directory?**

**Ans.** Home directory is the default working directory when a user logs in.

Working directory is the user's current directory

**Q20. Which daemon controls the print spooling process?**

**Ans.** The line printing daemon

## **Q21. How can you check the memory status?**

**Ans.** free -m to display output in MB

free -m to display output in GB

## **Q22. Explain how to uninstall the libraries in Linux?**

**Ans.** By using the command `sudo apt - get remove library_name`

## **Q23. Which command is used to delete a group?**

**Ans.** The `groupdel` command

## **Q24. How do you terminate an ongoing process?**

**Ans.** Use the `kill` command followed by the `pid` in order to terminate that process. To terminate all process at once, use `kill 0`.

## **Q25. Can Linux computer be made a router so that several machines may share a single Internet connection? How?**

**Ans.** Yes, by IP masquerading

## **Q26. What daemon is used for scheduling of the commands?**

**Ans.** The `crontab` command

These are some of the popular questions that are asked in Linux interviews. Always be prepared to answer all types of questions — technical skills, interpersonal, leadership or methodology. If you are someone who has

recently started your career in this field, you can always get certified to understand the industry-related terminology, skills and methodologies.

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## About the Author



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Hasib is a professional writer associated with learning.naukri.com. He has written a number of articles related to technology, marketing, and career on various blogs and websites. As an amateur career guru, he often imparts nuggets of knowledge related leadership and motivation through different media. He is also an avid reader and passionate about the beautiful game of football.

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