

2.4.3 Alias Facts


An alias is a shortcut stored in memory that runs a command on your Linux system.

This lesson covers the following topics:

- Create and remove aliases
- Persistent aliases

Create and Remove Aliases

The following table describes the commands that create and remove aliases:

Use	To	Example
alias	Display the currently defined aliases on the system.	<pre>[rtracy@fs5 ~]\$ alias alias egrep='egrep --color=auto' alias fgrep='fgrep --color=auto' alias grep='grep --color=auto' alias l='ls -d .* --color=auto' alias ll='ls -l --color=auto' alias ls='ls --color=auto' alias which='alias /usr/bin/which --tty-only --read-alias --show-dot --show-tilde'</pre>
alias [name='command']	Create a custom alias that runs an existing command. A single alias can be defined to run multiple commands. <div> When creating the alias, encapsulate the command(s) with quotation marks or apostrophes.</div>	<pre>alias securebackup='cp ./*.*/dev/st0/*.*;shred -fuvz ./*' creates an alias that copies all files in the current directory to a tape backup device and then shreds the original files. alias forcelogout="killall /usr/bin/Xorg" creates a shortcut that kills all Xserver processes.</pre>
unalias [name]	Remove an alias.	<pre>unalias securebackup removes the alias specified for the securebackup command. unalias forcelogout deletes the forcelogout alias.</pre>

Persistent Aliases

Most distributions include predefined aliases that are created at system startup and therefore, persist after a reboot. Custom alias defined from the shell prompt may not persist after a user logs out or after a reboot.

To create persistent aliases for all users do one of the following:

- Add alias commands to the **/etc/profile** file.
- Add a script file (*.sh) containing alias commands to the **/etc/profile.d/** directory.

To create persistent aliases for a single user, do one of the following:

- Add alias commands to the **~/.profile** file
- Add alias commands to the **~/.bashrc** file.

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