

Getting Help

 THE **LINUX** FOUNDATION

Sources of Documentation

- Linux is an open operating system which draws from a large variety of sources; as a result, the methods of getting help and obtaining documentation are myriad as well
- While the vast majority of the tasks one would pursue every day have extensive and well-made documentation organized in a relatively coherent way (already on your system), there are occasions where documentation is either missing or lacking in depth or clarity
 - Sometimes the developers associated with a project think everything is obvious
 - Sometimes it is simply that developers tend to push documentation and help facilities to the end of a project's development, and just never really get around to it before they move on to more exciting and new areas

Sources of Documentation (Cont.)

- A paucity of helpful documentation is the exception and not the rule, so we do not want you to think Linux is lacking in this regard; in fact, due to its open nature it is easy to argue that the help available is both more extensive and easily accessible than it is for other operating systems, particularly proprietary ones
- Linux distributors play an important role in making the local help information comprehensive and easy to use
- An essential task of the distributor is the **amalgamation** of material from many sources and presentation of it in a uniform way
- Commercial distributions offer technical support (for a fee) and depending on your circumstances you may find this a good value

Basic Command Line Tools

The basic command line tools that can be found on all Linux systems include:

- `man` Pages
- `info`
- `--help` and `help`

