

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 •
env	Environment variables
ethtool	Ethernet card settings
eval	Evaluate several commands/arguments
exec	Execute a command
exit	Exit the shell
expect	Automate arbitrary applications accessed over a terminal
expand	Convert tabs to spaces
export	Set an environment variable
expr	Evaluate expressions

f

false	Do nothing, unsuccessfully
fdformat	Low-level format a floppy disk
fdisk	Partition table manipulator for Linux
fg	Send job to foreground
fgrep	Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string
file	Determine file type
find	Search for files that meet a desired criteria
fmt	Reformat paragraph text
fold	Wrap text to fit a specified width.
for	Expand <i>words</i> , and execute <i>commands</i>
format	Format disks or tapes
free	Display memory usage
fsck	File system consistency check and repair
ftp	File Transfer Protocol
function	Define Function Macros
fuser	Identify/kill the process that is accessing a file

g

`gawk` Find and Replace text within file(s)
`getopts` Parse positional parameters
`grep` Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern
`groupadd` Add a user security group
`groupdel` Delete a group
`groupmod` Modify a group
`groups` Print group names a user is in
`gzip` Compress or decompress named file(s)

h

`hash` Remember the full pathname of a name argument
`head` Output the first part of file(s)
`help` Display help for a built-in command •
`history` Command History
`hostname` Print or set system name

i

`iconv` Convert the character set of a file
`id` Print user and group id's
`if` Conditionally perform a command
`ifconfig` Configure a network interface
`ifdown` Stop a network interface
`ifup` Start a network interface up
`import` Capture an X server screen and save the image to file
`install` Copy files and set attributes

j

`jobs` List active jobs •
`join` Join lines on a common field

k

`kill` Stop a process from running
`killall` Kill processes by name

l

less	Display output one screen at a time
let	Perform arithmetic on shell variables •
link	Create a link to a file
ln	Create a symbolic link to a file
local	Create variables •
locate	Find files
logname	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
lprntd	Abort a print job
lprntq	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
most	Browse or page through a text file
mount	Mount a file system
mttools	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
`pv` Monitor the progress of data through a pipe
`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

`rm` Remove files

`rmdir` Remove folder(s)

`rsync` Remote file copy (Synchronize file trees)

s

`screen` Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh

`scp` Secure copy (remote file copy)

`sdiff` Merge two files interactively

`sed` Stream Editor

`select` Accept keyboard input

`seq` Print numeric sequences

`set` Manipulate shell variables and functions

`sftp` Secure File Transfer Program

`shift` Shift positional parameters

`shopt` Shell Options

`shutdown` Shutdown or restart linux

sleep	Delay for a specified time
slocate	Find files
sort	Sort text files
source	Run commands from a file '.'
split	Split a file into fixed-size pieces
ssh	Secure Shell client (remote login program)
stat	Display file or file system status
strace	Trace system calls and signals
su	Substitute user identity
sudo	Execute a command as another user
sum	Print a checksum for a file
suspend	Suspend execution of this shell •
sync	Synchronize data on disk with memory

t

tail	Output the last part of file
tar	Store, list or extract files in an archive
tee	Redirect output to multiple files
test	Evaluate a conditional expression
time	Measure Program running time
timeout	Run a command with a time limit
times	User and system times
touch	Change file timestamps
top	List processes running on the system
traceroute	Trace Route to Host
trap	Run a command when a signal is set(bourne)
tr	Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
true	Do nothing, successfully
tsort	Topological sort
tty	Print filename of terminal on stdin
type	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
<code>uudecode</code>	Decode a file created by uuencode

v

<code>v</code>	Verbosely list directory contents (<code>`ls -l -b'</code>)
<code>vdir</code>	Verbosely list directory contents (<code>`ls -l -b'</code>)
<code>vi</code>	Text Editor
<code>vmstat</code>	Report virtual memory statistics

w

<code>wait</code>	Wait for a process to complete •
<code>watch</code>	Execute/display a program periodically
<code>wc</code>	Print byte, word, and line counts
<code>whereis</code>	Search the user's \$path, man pages and source files for a program

which	Search the user's \$path for a program file
while	Execute commands
who	Print all usernames currently logged in
whoami	Print the current user id and name (`id -un`)
wget	Retrieve web pages or files via HTTP, HTTPS or FTP
write	Send a message to another user
x	
xargs	Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)
xdg-open	Open a file or URL in the user's preferred application.
yes	Print a string until interrupted
zip	Package and compress (archive) files.
.	Run a command script in the current shell
!!	Run the last command again
###	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](#)



© Copyright [SS64.com](#) 1999-2014
Some rights reserved