Linux System Administrator Command Sheet

This command sheet assumes that the user is already knowledgeable with Linux fundamentals. As with most Linux commands there are numerous flags and modifiers that may be used with specific commands. Most of these modifiers are not listed here, but may be found in the man page for the specified command.

Users maintenance/creation:

who	Displays a list of all currently logged in users.
w	Displays a list of all currently logged in users and what they are currently doing.
last	Displays a historical list of users log-in activity in descending order.
last "userName"	Displays a historical list of the log-in acitivty for the specified user.
adduser "userName"	Creates the specified user name and adds it to the system.
addgroup "groupName"	Creates the specified group.
usermod "userName"	Modify the attributes of a user account.
sudo adduser "userName" sudo	Adds the specified user to the super user group.
userdel "userName" userdel -r "userName"	Deletes the specified user account from the system. The addition of the '-r' flag also deletes the home directory associated with the account.

System maintenance:

uptime	Displays the amount of time the system has been running, number of users logged in, and average system load.
crontab -l	Displays the jobs currently scheduled under the crontab scheduler.
crontab -e	Allows the user to edit the jobs scheduled under the crontab scheduler.
ftp "remoteHost" sftp "remoteHost"	Connect to a remote ftp or sftp host.
ftp > mput "files" ftp > mget "files"	Mput sends multiple files to the ftp host, mget recieves multiple files from the ftp host.
service "scriptName" start	Starts a specified script stored in /etc/init.d
free	Displays the amount of memory the system has and is currently using.
top	Displays a list, in real time, of currently running processes and system resource metrics.
ps	Displays a snapshot of currently running processes.
kill "PID" kill -9 "PID"	Ends a process identified by its PID. Kill-9 kills the process with more fire.
lsof	Displays a list of all open files. It will be a long list, generally.

lsof -u "userName" | less	Elegantly look at what files are currently open by the specified user.
history	List of previously used commands. The size of the history can be changed.
sudo shutdown -h now	Shuts the system down, safely, from the command line.