Linux Commands

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ls - lists all the directories & files

ls -a [All the files including hidden]

-l [long listing]

env - Lists all environment variables

which <command> lists

ls - list the contents of a directory and their attributes

ls -l = long listing, showing file and directory ownership, permissions, and sizes

ls -lh = the 'h' switch shows size in human readable format, must be used with 'l' switch

ls -a = show all files and folders, including hidden ones

ls -R = list directories recursively

ls -S = sort files by size with the largest at the top

ls -t = sort by last time modifed displaying the newest first, most useful with the -l switch

whoami - display your currently logged in user

su - substitute user, change to another user account on the system

exit - leave a shell environment that you are logged in to

init 6 - legacy command for

env - list all of the environment variables set for the current shell environment

The **PATH** environment variable contains a llist of all of the directories that Bash will look in for applications or scripts to run.

echo = print what follows to the screen

echo $PATH = print the contents of the PATH environment variable to the screen

uname - display the name of the system kernel

uname -r - display the kernel release number

uname -v - display the kernel build version

uname -m -display the machine type

uname -o - display the name of

that you are logged in to

init 6 - legacy command for rebooting a system

init 0 - legacy command for shutting a system down

halt, poweroff - shuts down (halts) a system

shutdown - can be used to poweroff, reboot or stop a pending shutdown request

top - interactively display top running processes on a system

pwd - print working directory, the current directory that you are in

cd - change directory to path specified. i.e. cd /path/to/folder if entered by itself with no path, you will change back to the home directory of the user you are currently logged in with

cd .. - go up one directory

cd - -return to last directory

cd ~ - change to the home directory of the currently logged in user

/etc/bashrc - system-wide functions and aliases

/etc/profile - system-wide environment and startup programs, used during a login shell

/etc/profile.d/ - location of extra environment setup scripts

uname -o - display the name of the operating system

uname -a - display all information that uname can show

.bash_history - hidden file within the home directory that contains a log of commands entered at the Bash prompt

HISTFILESIZE - environment variable that specifies how many lines of history to keep

HISTCONTROL - environment variable that modifies Bash's history behavior

history - command that prints out commands saved in .bash_history with each command numbered

!<history number> - re-runs command from .bash_history

TAB key is your friend when it comes to command completion and having long file and directory names autocompleted at the Bash prompt for you

env - lists out environment variables of the currently logged in shell

echo $VARIABLE - prints the value of VARIABLE to the screen

set - lists out all environment variables in alphabetical order

VARIABLENAME=value - format for declaring a new variable in Bash

export VARIABLE - exports

/etc/profile.d/ - location of extra environment setup scripts

The following files are in the home directory of the user (note that not all distributions will use all of these files):

.bash_profile - used to set user specific shell environment preferences

.bash_logout - ran when the user logs out of a login shell, not a terminal, does not exist on every system

.bashrc - non-login file that stores user specific functions and aliases

" " - double quotes, contains strings and any variables or commands within them get evaluated or acted on

' ' - single quotes, anything within these gets treated literally, disables any special character functionality

**** - backslash, escape character, disables any special character functionality that immediately follows it

Quotes around spaces or an escape character preceding a space will be treated literally.

for declaring a new variable in Bash

export VARIABLE - exports variable and its value to other shells

***** - matches zero or more characters

? - matches any single character

[abc] - matches any one of the characters in the list, case sensitive

[^abc] - matches any one character except those in the list, case sensitive

[0-9] - matches a range of numbers

locate -searches a local database of files and folders looking for items that match the search criteria

locate cd

find - searches the file system for files that match the search criteria

find /path/to/folder -name file

When using the find command to search for part of a file name, use globbing within single quotes:

find /path/to/folder -name '*file*'

whereis - locates binary, source and/or manual pages for a command

man - manual pages command, invoked by entering:
man <command>

whatis - Command that lists summaries and related man pages based on search term, invoked by entering:
whatis <command>
Same results can be obtained by:
man -f <command>

apropos - command that searches man page for appearances of the keyword provided, invoked by entering:
apropos <keyword>
Same results can be obtained by:
man -k <keyword>

Arrow keys and vi key bindings can be used to navigate the man pages. Pressing the 'q' key will exit the man page.

mkdir - make a new directory
-p = make a parent directory along with a subdirectory

rmdir - remove an empty directory

touch - create an empty file or update a file's timestamp

cp - copy a file or folder
-R = copy a folder recursively
-v = verbose, display what the copy command is doing

mv - move or rename a file or folder

rm - remove a file or folder
-r = recursively remoe a folder and its contents