## **Getting Info about Commands**

Brush up on how to get information about bash commands via command line.

### man

#### **Definition:**

man is used to format or display the *manual pages*. Manual pages or *man* pages are the official documentation of all shell commands that comes along with the Linux distributions.

## Syntax:

```
man [option(s)] keyword(s)
```

In order to display manual page from specific section:

man [section-num] [command/tool name]

### **Section Numbers:**

Section No.	Section Description
1	Programs or shell commands
2	System calls (functions provided by the kernel)
3	Library calls (functions within program libraries)

	P
4	Special files (usually found in /dev)
5	File formats and conventions eg /etc/passwd
6	Games and demonstrations
7	Miscellaneous (including macro packages and conventions), e.g., man, groff
8	System administration commands (usually only for root)
9	Device driver interfaces

# Options:

Option	Syntax	Meaning
-S	<pre>man <section num=""> <command/></section></pre>	To specifically view a section of a man page.
-a	man -a <command/>	To display all manual pages where a command exists.
-W	man -w [command/tool name]	To view the location for man pages.
-I	man -I [command/tool name]	To enable case- sensitivity while searching for man pages

-H

man -H[browsercommand]

[command/tool name]

To display manual
pages in web
browser.

To lookup for manual
pages and display
short descriptions as
well.

## Example:

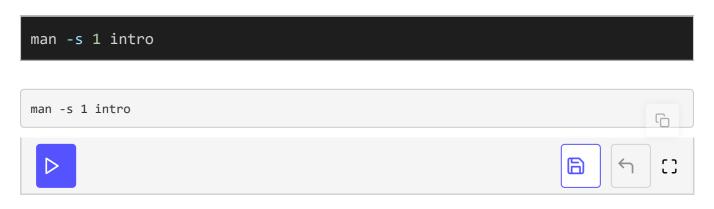
To get information about the 1s command:



To display section 3 of command printf:



To look in section 1 to find a manual page called intro:



To display all enteries of <a href="intro">intro</a> with section numbers and short descriptions:



To quit displaying the man page and return to the command prompt, press q.