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## Basic Linux Commands with Examples

In this Linux cheat sheet, we will cover all the most important Linux commands, from the basics to the advanced. We will also provide some tips on how to practice and learn Linux commands. This cheat sheet is useful for Beginners and Experience professionals.

### 1. File and Directory Operations Commands

File and directory operations are fundamental in working with the Linux operating system. Here are some commonly used File and Directory Operations commands:

Command	Description	Options	Examples
<a href="#">ls</a>	List files and directories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-l</b>: Long format listing.</li> <li>• <b>-a</b>: Include hidden files hidden ones</li> <li>• <b>-h</b>: Human-readable file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ls -l</b> displays files and directories with detailed information.</li> <li>• <b>ls -a</b> shows all files and directories, including</li> <li>• <b>ls -lh</b></li> </ul>

Command	Description	Options	Examples
			format.
<a href="#">cd</a>	Change directory.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>cd /path/to/directory</b> changes the current directory to the specified path.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">pwd</a>	Print current working directory.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>pwd</b> displays the current working directory.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">mkdir</a>	Create a new directory.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>mkdir my_directory</b> creates a new directory named “my_directory”.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">rm</a>	Remove files and directories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-r</b>: Remove directories recursively.</li> <li>• <b>-f</b>: Force removal without confirmation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>rm file.txt</b> deletes the file named “file.txt”.</li> <li>• <b>rm -r my_directory</b> deletes the directory “my_directory” and its contents.</li> <li>• <b>rm -f file.txt</b> forcefully deletes the file “file.txt” without confirmation.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">cp</a>	Copy files and directories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-r</b>: Copy directories recursively.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>cp -r directory destination</b> copies the directory “directory” and its contents to the specified destination.</li> <li>• <b>cp file.txt destination</b> copies the file “file.txt” to the specified</li> </ul>

Command	Description	Options	Examples
<a href="#"><u>mv</u></a>	Move/rename files and directories.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>mv file.txt new_name.txt</b> renames the file "file.txt" to "new_name.txt".</li> <li>• <b>mv file.txt directory</b> moves the file "file.txt" to the specified directory.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>touch</u></a>	Create an empty file or update file timestamps.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>touch file.txt</b> creates an empty file named "file.txt".</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>cat</u></a>	View the contents of a file.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>cat file.txt</b> displays the contents of the file "file.txt".</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>head</u></a>	Display the first few lines of a file.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-n</b>: Specify the number of lines to display.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>head file.txt</b> shows the first 10 lines of the file "file.txt".</li> <li>• <b>head -n 5 file.txt</b> displays the first 5 lines of the file "file.txt".</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>tail</u></a>	Display the last few lines of a file.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-n</b>: Specify the number of lines to display.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>tail file.txt</b> shows the last 10 lines of the file "file.txt".</li> <li>• <b>tail -n 5 file.txt</b> displays the last 5 lines of the file "file.txt".</li> </ul>

Command	Description	Options	Examples
<a href="#">ln</a>	Create links between files.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-s</b>: Create symbolic (soft) links.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ln -s source_file link_name</b> creates a symbolic link named "link_name" pointing to "source_file".</li> </ul>
<a href="#">find</a>	Search for files and directories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-name</b>: Search by filename.</li> <li>• <b>-type</b>: Search by file type.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>find /path/to/search -name "*.txt"</b> searches for all files with the extension ".txt" in the specified directory.</li> </ul>

## 2. File Permission Commands

File permissions on Linux and Unix systems control access to files and directories. There are three basic permissions: read, write, and execute. Each permission can be granted or denied to three different categories of users: the owner of the file, the members of the file's group, and everyone else.

Here are some file permission commands:

Command	Description	Options	Examples
<a href="#">chmod</a>	Change file permissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>u</b>: User/owner permissions.</li> <li>• <b>g</b>: Group permissions.</li> <li>• <b>o</b>: Other permissions.</li> <li>• <b>+</b>: Add permissions.</li> <li>• <b>-</b>: Remove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>chmod u+rwx file.txt</b> grants read, write, and execute permissions to the owner of the file.</li> </ul>

Command	Description	Options	Examples
		permissions explicitly.	
<a href="#">chown</a>	Change file ownership.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>chown user file.txt</b> changes the owner of “file.txt” to the specified user.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">chgrp</a>	Change group ownership.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>chgrp group file.txt</b> changes the group ownership of “file.txt” to the specified group.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">umask</a>	Set default file permissions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>umask 022</b> sets the default file permissions to read and write for the owner, and read-only for group and others.</li> </ul>

### 3. File Compression and Archiving Commands

Here are some file compression and archiving commands in Linux:

Commands	Description	Options	Examples
<a href="#">tar</a>	Create or extract archive files.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-c</b>: Create a new archive.</li> <li>• <b>-x</b>: Extract files from an archive.</li> <li>• <b>-f</b>: Specify the archive file name.</li> <li>• <b>-v</b>: Verbose mode.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>tar -czvf archive.tar.gz files/</b> creates a compressed tar archive named “archive.tar.gz” containing the files in the “files/” directory.</li> </ul>

Commands	Description	Options	Examples
		with gzip. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-j</b>: Compress the archive with bzip2.</li> </ul>	
<a href="#">gzip</a>	Compress files.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-d</b>: Decompress files.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>gzip file.txt</b> compresses the file “file.txt” and renames it as “file.txt.gz”.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">zip</a>	Create compressed zip archives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-r</b>: Recursively include directories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>zip archive.zip file1.txt file2.txt</b> creates a zip archive named “archive.zip” containing “file1.txt” and “file2.txt”.</li> </ul>

## 4. Process Management Commands

In Linux, process management commands allow you to monitor and control running processes on the system. Here are some commonly used process management commands:

Commands	Description	Options	Examples
<a href="#">ps</a>	Display running processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-aux</b>: Show all processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ps aux</b> shows all running processes with detailed information.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">top</a>	Monitor system processes in real-time.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>top</b> displays a dynamic view of system processes and their</li> </ul>

Commands	Description	Options	Examples
<a href="#">kill</a>	Terminate a process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-9</b>: Forcefully kill a process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>kill PID</b> terminates the process with the specified process ID.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">pkill</a>	Terminate processes based on their name.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>pkill process_name</b> terminates all processes with the specified name.</li> </ul>
<b>pgrep</b>	List processes based on their name.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>pgrep process_name</b> lists all processes with the specified name.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">grep</a>	used to search for specific patterns or regular expressions in text files or streams and display matching lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-i</b>: Ignore case distinctions while searching.</li> <li>• <b>-v</b>: Invert the match, displaying non-matching lines.</li> <li>• <b>-r or -R</b>: Recursively search directories for matching patterns.</li> <li>• <b>-l</b>: Print only the names of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>grep -i "hello" file.txt</b></li> <li>• <b>grep -v "error" file.txt</b></li> <li>• <b>grep -r "pattern" directory/</b></li> <li>• <b>grep -l "keyword" file.txt</b></li> <li>• <b>grep -n "pattern" file.txt</b> In these examples we are extracting our desired output from filename (file.txt)</li> </ul>

Commands	Description	Options	Examples
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>-n</b>: Display line numbers alongside matching lines.</li><li>• <b>-w</b>: Match whole words only, rather than partial matches.</li><li>• <b>-c</b>: Count the number of matching lines instead of displaying them.</li><li>• <b>-e</b>: Specify multiple patterns to search for.</li><li>• <b>-A</b>: Display lines after the matching line.</li><li>• <b>-B</b>: Display lines before the matching line.</li><li>• <b>-C</b>: Display lines both before and after the matching line.</li></ul>	

## 5. System Information Commands

In Linux, there are several commands available to gather system information. Here are some commonly used system information commands:



<b>sudoCommand</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Options</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<a href="#"><u>uname</u></a>	Print system information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-a</b>: All system information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>uname -a</b> displays all system information.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>whoami</u></a>	Display current username.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>whoami</b> shows the current username.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>df</u></a>	Show disk space usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-h</b>: Human-readable sizes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>df -h</b> displays disk space usage in a human-readable format.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>du</u></a>	Estimate file and directory sizes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-h</b>: Human-readable sizes.</li> <li>• <b>-s</b>: Display total size only.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>du -sh directory/</b> provides the total size of the specified directory.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>free</u></a>	Display memory usage information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>-h</b>: Human-readable sizes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>free -h</b> displays memory usage in a human-readable format.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>uptime</u></a>	Show system uptime.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>uptime</b> shows the current system uptime.</li> </ul>
<b>lscpu</b>	Display CPU information.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>lscpu</b> provides detailed CPU information.</li> </ul>
<b>lspci</b>	List PCI devices.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>lspci</b> List PCI devices.</li> </ul>

sudoCommand	Description	Options	Examples
			USB devices.

## 6. Networking Commands

In Linux, there are several networking commands available to manage and troubleshoot network connections. Here are some commonly used networking commands:

Command	Description	Examples
<a href="#">ifconfig</a>	Display network interface information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ifconfig</b> shows the details of all network interfaces.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">ping</a>	Send ICMP echo requests to a host.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ping google.com</b> sends ICMP echo requests to “google.com” to check connectivity.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">netstat</a>	Display network connections and statistics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>netstat -tuln</b> shows all listening TCP and UDP connections.</li> </ul>
<b>ss</b>	Display network socket information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ss -tuln</b> shows all listening TCP and UDP connections.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">ssh</a>	Securely connect to a remote server.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ssh user@hostname</b> initiates an SSH connection to the specified hostname.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">scp</a>	Securely copy files between hosts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>scp file.txt user@hostname:/path /to/destination</b> securely copies “file.txt” to the</li> </ul>

Command	Description	Examples
<a href="#">wget</a>	Download files from the web.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>wget http://example.com/file.txt</b> downloads "file.txt" from the specified URL.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">curl</a>	Transfer data to or from a server.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>curl http://example.com</b> retrieves the content of a webpage from the specified URL.</li> </ul>

## 7. IO Redirection Commands

In Linux, IO (Input/Output) redirection commands are used to redirect the standard input, output, and error streams of commands and processes.

Here are some commonly used IO redirection commands:

Command	Description
cmd < file	Input of cmd is taken from file.
cmd > file	Standard output (stdout) of cmd is redirected to file.
cmd 2> file	Error output (stderr) of cmd is redirected to file.
cmd 2>&1	stderr is redirected to the same place as stdout.
cmd1 <(cmd2)	Output of cmd2 is used as the input file for cmd1.
cmd > /dev/null	Discards the stdout of cmd by sending it to the null device.
cmd &> file	Every output of cmd is redirected to file.
cmd 1>&2	stdout is redirected to the same place as stderr.
cmd >> file	Appends the stdout of cmd to file.

In Linux, environment variables are used to store configuration settings, system information, and other variables that can be accessed by processes and shell scripts. Here are some commonly used environment variable commands:

Command	Description
<b>export</b> <b>VARIABLE_NAME=value</b>	Sets the value of an environment variable.
<b>echo \$VARIABLE_NAME</b>	Displays the value of a specific environment variable.
<b>env</b>	Lists all environment variables currently set in the system.
<b>unset VARIABLE_NAME</b>	Unsets or removes an environment variable.
<b>export -p</b>	Shows a list of all currently exported environment variables.
<b>env VAR1=value COMMAND</b>	Sets the value of an environment variable for a specific command.
<b>printenv</b>	Displays the values of all environment variables.

## 9. User Management Commands

In Linux, user management commands allow you to create, modify, and manage user accounts on the system. Here are some commonly used user management commands:

Command	Description

Command	Description
<b>sudo adduser username</b>	Create a new user account on the system with the specified username.
<b>finger</b>	Display information about all the users currently logged into the system, including their usernames, login time, and terminal.
<b>sudo deluser USER GROUPNAME</b>	Remove the specified user from the specified group.
<b>last</b>	Show the recent login history of users.
<b>finger username</b>	Provide information about the specified user, including their username, real name, terminal, idle time, and login time.
<b>sudo userdel -r username</b>	Delete the specified user account from the system, including their home directory and associated files. The -r option ensures the removal of the user's files.
<b>sudo passwd -l username</b>	Lock the password of the specified user account, preventing the user from logging in.
<b>su - username</b>	Switch to another user account with the user's environment.
<b>sudo usermod -a -G GROUPNAME USERNAME</b>	Add an existing user to the specified group. The user is added to the group without removing them from their current groups.

## 10. Shortcuts Commands

There are many shortcuts commands in Linux that can help you be more productive. Here are a few of the most common ones:

Navigation	Description	Editing	Description	History	Description
<b>Ctrl + A</b>	Move to the beginning of the line.	<b>Ctrl + U</b>	Cut/delete from the cursor position to the beginning of the line.	<b>Ctrl + R</b>	Search command history (reverse search).
<b>Ctrl + E</b>	Move to the end of the line.	<b>Ctrl + K</b>	Cut/delete from the cursor position to the end of the line.	<b>Ctrl + G</b>	Escape from history search mode.
<b>Ctrl + B</b>	Move back one character.	<b>Ctrl + W</b>	Cut/delete the word before the cursor.	<b>Ctrl + P</b>	Go to the previous command in history.
<b>Ctrl + F</b>	Move forward one character.	<b>Ctrl + Y</b>	Paste the last cut text.	<b>Ctrl + N</b>	Go to the next command in history.
<b>Alt + B</b>	Move back one word	<b>Ctrl + L</b>	Clear the screen.	<b>Ctrl + C</b>	Terminate the current command.
<b>Alt + F</b>	Move forward one word.				

## 10.2: Nano Shortcuts Commands:

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File Operations	Description	Navigation	Description	Editing	Descript
<b>Ctrl + O</b>	Save the file.	<b>Ctrl + Y</b>	Scroll up one page.	<b>Ctrl + K</b>	Cut/delete from the cursor position to the end of the line.
<b>Ctrl + X</b>	Exit Nano (prompt to save if modified).	<b>Ctrl + V</b>	Scroll down one page.	<b>Ctrl + U</b>	Uncut/rest the last cu text.
<b>Ctrl + R</b>	Read a file into the current buffer.	<b>Alt + \</b>	Go to a specific line number.	<b>Ctrl + G</b>	Mark a bloc of text for copying or cutting.
<b>Ctrl + J</b>	Justify the current paragraph.	<b>Alt + ,</b>	Go to the beginning of the current line.	<b>Ctrl + K</b>	Cut/delete the marke block of te
		<b>Alt + .</b>	Go to the end of the current line.	<b>Alt + G</b>	Copy the marked bl of text.

### 10.3: VI Shortcuts Commands:

Command	Description
<b>cw</b>	Change the current word. Deletes from the cursor position to the end of the current word and switches to insert mode.

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**Got It !**

Command	Description
<b>dd</b>	Delete the current line.
<b>x</b>	Delete the character under the cursor.
<b>R</b>	Enter replace mode. Overwrites characters starting from the cursor position until you press the Escape key.
<b>o</b>	Insert a new line below the current line and switch to insert mode.
<b>u</b>	Undo the last change.
<b>s</b>	Substitute the character under the cursor and switch to insert mode.
<b>dw</b>	Delete from the cursor position to the beginning of the next word.
<b>D</b>	Delete from the cursor position to the end of the line.
<b>4dw</b>	Delete the next four words from the cursor position.
<b>A</b>	Switch to insert mode at the end of the current line.
<b>S</b>	Delete the current line and switch to insert mode.
<b>r</b>	Replace the character under the cursor with a new character entered from the keyboard.
<b>i</b>	Switch to insert mode before the cursor.
<b>3dd</b>	Delete the current line and the two lines below it.
<b>ESC</b>	Exit from insert or command-line mode and return to command mode.
<b>U</b>	Restore the current line to its original state before any changes were made.