

Linux Quick Reference

SOME USEFUL COMMANDS

Command	Task
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File/Directory Basics

ls	List files
cp	Copy files
mv	Rename files
rm	Delete files
ln	Link files
cd	Change directory
pwd	Print current directory name
mkdir	Create directory
rmdir	Delete directory

File Viewing

cat	View files
less	Page through files
head	View file beginning
tail	View file ending
nl	Number lines
od	View binary data
xxd	View binary data
gv	View Postscript/PDF files
xdvi	View TeX DVI files

File Creation and Editing

emacs	Text editor
vim	Text editor
umask	Set default file protections
soffice	Edit Word/Excel/PowerPoint docs
abiword	Edit Word documents
gnnumeric	Edit Excel documents

File Properties

stat	Display file attributes
wc	Count bytes/words/lines
du	Measure disk usage
file	Identify file types
touch	Change file timestamps
chown	Change file owner
chgrp	Change file group
chmod	Change file protections
chattr	Change advanced file attributes
lsattr	List advanced file attributes

Printing

lpr	Print files
lpq	View print queue
lprm	Remove print jobs

Spelling Operations

look	Look up spelling
aspell	Check spelling interactively
spell	Check spelling in batch

Processes

ps	List all processes
w	List users' processes
uptime	View the system load
top	Monitor processes
xload	Monitor system load
free	Display free memory
kill	Terminate processes
nice	Set process priorities
renice	Change process priorities

Scheduling Jobs

sleep	Wait for some time
watch	Run programs at set intervals
at	Schedule a job
crontab	Schedule repeated jobs

Hosts

uname	Print system information
hostname	Print the system's hostname
ifconfig	Set/display network information
host	Look up DNS
whois	Look up domain registrants
ping	Check if host is reachable
traceroute	View network path to a host

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File Location

find	Locate files
slocate	Locate files via index
which	Locate commands
whereis	Locate standard files

File Text Manipulation

grep	Search text for matching lines
cut	Extract columns
paste	Append columns
tr	Translate characters
sort	Sort lines
uniq	Locate identical lines
tee	Copy stdin to a file and to stdout simultaneously

File Compression

gzip	Compress files (GNU Zip)
compress	Compress files (Unix)
bzip2	Compress files (BZip2)
zip	Compress files (Windows Zip)

File Comparison

diff	Compare files line by line
comm	Compare sorted files
cmp	Compare files byte by byte
md5sum	Compute checksums

Disks and Filesystems

df	Show free disk space
mount	Make a disk accessible
fsck	Check a disk for errors
sync	Flush disk caches

Backups and Remote Storage

mt	Control a tape drive
dump	Back up a disk
restore	Restore a dump
tar	Read/write tape archives
cdrecord	Burn a CD
rsync	Mirror a set of files

Networking

ssh	Securely log into remote hosts
telnet	Log into remote hosts
scp	Securely copy files between hosts
sftp	Securely copy files between hosts
ftp	Copy files between hosts
evolution	GUI email client
mutt	Text-based email client
mail	Minimal email client
mozilla	Web browser
lynx	Text-only web browser
wget	Retrieve web pages to disk
slrn	Read Usenet news
gaim	Instant messaging/IRC
talk	Linux/Unix chat
write	Send messages to a terminal
mesg	Prohibit talk/write

Audio and Video

grip	Play CDs and rip MP3s
xmms	Play audio files
cdparanoia	Rip audio
audacity	Edit audio
xcdroast	Burn CDs

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Keivan Mahdavi



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