

A summary of useful Linux commands

Help on any Unix command

man command - Type `man ls` to read the manual for the `ls` command

whatis command - Give short description of command

apropos keyword - Search for all Unix commands that match keyword, eg `apropos file`

File Commands

ls - directory listing

ls -al - formatted listing with hidden files

ls -F path - show type of each file. `"/` = directory, `"*" = executable`

ls -R path - recursive listing, with all subdirs

cd dir - change directory to dir

cd - change to home

pwd - show current directory

mkdir dir - create a directory dir

rm file - delete file

rm -r dir - delete directory dir

rm -f file - force remove file

rm -rf dir - force remove directory dir *

cp file1 file2 - copy file1 to file2

cp -r dir1 dir2 - copy dir1 to dir2; create dir2 if it doesn't exist

mv file1 file2 - rename or move file1 to file2

if file2 is an existing directory, moves file1 into directory file2

touch file - create or update file

cat > file - places standard input into file

more file - output the contents of file

head file - output the first 10 lines of file

less file - like more, with extra features

cat file - view file, but it scrolls

tail file - output the last 10 lines of file

tail -f file - output the contents of file as it grows, starting with the last 10 lines

diff file1 file2 - show the differences between file1 and file2

wc file - count words in file

File Permissions

chmod u+rw file - Give yourself read and write permission

chmod u+x file - Give yourself execute permission

chmod a+rw file - Give read and write permission to everyone

Searching

grep pattern files - search for pattern in files

grep -r pattern dir - search recursively for pattern in dir

command | grep pattern - search for pattern in the output of command

locate file - find all instances of file

Wildcards and Shortcuts

***** - Match any string of characters, eg `page*` gets `page1`, `page10`, and `page.txt`

? - Match any single character, eg `page?` gets `page1` and `page2`, but not `page10`

[...] - Match any characters in a range, eg `page[1-3]` gets `page1`, `page2`, and `page3`

~ - Short for your home directory, eg `cd ~` will take you home, and `rm -r ~` will destroy it

. - The current directory

.. - One directory up the tree, eg `ls ..`

Pipes and Redirection

command > file - Redirect output to a file

command >> file - Append output to an existing file

command < file - Get input from a file, eg `sort < file.txt`

command < file1 > file2 - Get input from file1, and write to file2

command | command - Pipe one command to another

SSH

ssh user@host - connect to host as user

ssh -p port user@host - connect to host on port port as user

Process Management

ps - display your currently active processes

top - display all running processes

kill pid - kill process id pid

killall proc - kill all processes named proc *

bg - lists stopped or background jobs; resume a stopped job in the background

fg - brings the most recent job to foreground

fg n - brings job n to the foreground

Shortcuts

Ctrl+C - halts the current command

Ctrl+Z - stops the current command, resume with `fg` in the foreground or `bg` in the background

Ctrl+D - log out of current session, similar to `exit`

Ctrl+W - erases one word in the current line

Ctrl+U - erases the whole line

Ctrl+R - type to bring up a recent command

!! - repeats the last command

exit - log out of current session