

UNIX/LINUX Top100 Commands

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1 The most important UNIX/LINUX commands

man CMD man -f/whatis CMD man -k/apropos TXT info CMD help [CMD] CMD --help/-h/-?/-. type [-a] CMD	Display description for CMD [manual] Display 1 line of description for CMD (man-Index) [file] Display 1 line of description for topic TXT (man-Index) [keyword] Display description for CMD (<i>GNU programs!</i>) List all shell commands/list description for shell CMD Display usage message for CMD (<i>GNU cmds/shell builtins/other programs!</i>) Display CMD type/path (builtin/alias/function/binary) [all]
who whoami who am i id [-a] [USER] su [-l] USER su su -[l] exit logout CTRL-D sudo CMD passwd [USER]	Display all users logged in Display currently (in terminal) logged in user Display own/USER name + group memberships + IDs [identity/all] Switch to account USER (<i>--l=incl. environment!</i>) [switch user/login] Become superuser root (<i>without/with environment change!</i>) Log out from terminal/switch back to former account/end of file [EOF] Execute one(!) command as root [superuser do] Change (own/USER) password (1x old, 2x new one) [password]
more/less FILE... CMD more/less lp/lpr FILE... CMD lp/lpr	Display FILE... page by page Display CMD output page by page Print out FILE... (lp=BSD, lp=SysV) [line print] Print out CMD output
cd PATH cd ~ cd cd / cd .. cd - pwd	Switch to directory PATH/own home directory [change directory] Switch to root/parent/previous directory (<i>back and forth!</i>) Display current directory [print working directory]
ls [DIR FILE]... ls -l ... ls -a ... ls -d ... ls -h ... ls -i ... ls -F ... ls -R ... ls -r ... ls -S ... ls -t ... ls --color=auto tree [DIR]	Display content of current dir./DIR/FILE (<i>sorted alfab. ascending!</i>) File names + attributes ... [long] All file names (<i>hidden ones like .xxx too!</i>) [all] Only directory name, not directory content [directory] File size in unit K/M/G/T/P/E/T/Z/Y/R/! (<i>instead of byte!</i>) [human readable] Index-node number [inode] File type char after name (<i>*=exe, /=dir, @=link!</i>) [Flag] Whole directory tree [Recursive] Sorted descending (<i>instead of ascending!</i>) [reverse] Sorted by file size (<i>ascending!</i>) [Size] Sorted by modification time (<i>ascending!</i>) [time] File type by color (<i>black=file, blue=dir, turq.=link, green=exec, yellow=device!</i>) Display directory tree graphical from current/DIR directory
touch FILE... * *.sh ? [abc] mv FILE NAME mv FILE... DIR mv FILE DIR/NAME cp FILE NAME cp FILE... DIR ln FILE NAME ln -s FILE NAME rm FILE... rm -r DIR... mkdir [-p] DIR... rmdir DIR... cat FILE1 FILE2... CTRL-D	Update change date of FILE... or create new file [touch] File name pattern (all, extension sh, any char, 1 char from abc) [globbing] Rename FILE to NAME [move] Move FILE... to directory DIR [move] Move FILE to directory DIR and rename it [move] Copy FILE to NAME (<i>overwrite!</i>) [copy] Copy FILE... to directory DIR [copy] Create hard/physical link NAME to FILE [link] Create symbolic/logical link NAME to FILE [symbolic] Delete FILE [remove] Delete complete directory tree starting at DIR... [recursive] Create directory (path) DIR... [make directory/path] Delete directory DIR... (<i>must be empty!</i>) [remove directory] Concatenate files and output them to stdout [concatenate] End of input [EOF/end of file] or logout (<i>instead of exit/logout!</i>)
chmod MODE FILE... umask NNN umask chown USER FILE... chgrp GROUP FILE...	Change file perm. [ugoa][+-=][rwxst] (<i>only owner!</i>) [change mode] Set standard permission mask 000–777 for new files/dirs (<i>permissions to be removed, r=4, w=2, x=1!</i>) [usage mask] Display std. perm. mask: 022 (<i>SuSE, Redhat!</i>) or 002 (<i>Debian, Ubuntu!</i>) Change owner to USER (<i>only root!</i>) [change owner] Change group owner to GROUP (<i>only owner!</i>) [change group]

2 Other important UNIX/LINUX commands

<pre>ps pstree top ps auxw ps -ef kill PID/%JOB... kill -9 PID/%JOB kill -l CTRL-C</pre>	<p>Display own processes/process tree/most active processes [process status] Display all processes (BSD/SysV) [all/user/extended/wide/every/full] Stop (background) process PID/%JOB.../ (standard signal SIGTERM=15) Stop (background) process PID/%JOB... in any case (SIGKILL=9) List all signal names + numbers [list] Cancel CMD entry/currently running CMD (SIGINT=2) [cancel]</p>
<pre>CMD & nohup CMD & CTRL-Z bg bg/fg %JOB jobs</pre>	<p>Run CMD in background (with number %JOB) Same but don't stop at logout (SIGHUP=0) [no hangup] Stop running CMD + switch to background [background] Switch %JOB to background/foreground Display all background processes of shell</p>
<pre>CMD < FILE CMD > FILE >> FILE CMD 2> FILE 2>> FILE CMD 2> /dev/null CMD > FILE 2>&1 CMD1 CMD2</pre>	<p>Read input for CMD from FILE Write/append output of CMD to FILE Write/append error messages of CMD to FILE Ignore error messages of CMD Write output + error messages of CMD to FILE Connect output of CMD1 to input of CMD2 [pipe]</p>
<pre>VAR="TXT" export VAR echo \$VAR \${VAR} set env printenv</pre>	<p>Set shell variable VAR to value TXT (<i>no space around = allowed!</i>) Convert shell variable VAR to environment variable Display content of shell/environment variable VAR twice Display all shell/environment variables</p>
<pre>HOME PWD HOST HOSTNAME LANG LC_ALL LC_* PAGER VIEWER PATH PS1 PS2 PS3 PS4 TERM USER LOGNAME EDITOR VISUAL PRINTER LPDEST</pre>	<p>Home directory for cd/current directory [print working directory] Name of machine Language settings (C, en_US.UTF8, de_DE.UTF8) [language/locale] Name of standard viewer (e.g. more/less; autom. called by man) Search path for executables (<i>dir list separated by : !</i>) Shell prompt: normal/continuation/select/debug [prompt string] Terminal type (editors, more, curses library) [terminal] Name of logged in user [login name] Name of standard editor (e.g. autom. called by crontab/visudo) Name of standard printer (e.g. autom. called by lp/lpr)</p>
<pre>find [DIR] ... grep "TXT" FILE... CMD grep "TXT" head [-N] FILE... CMD head [-N] tail [-N] FILE... CMD tail [-N] tail -f FILE... tail +N FILE... wc -l/-w/-c FILE... CMD wc -l/-w/-c</pre>	<p>Search/list/process files/dirs by name + attr. starting from curr. dir/DIR Display lines of FILE containing TXT [global regex print] Display lines of CMD output containing TXT Display first 10/N lines of FILE Display first 10/N lines of CMD output Display last 10/N lines of FILE Display last 10/N lines of CMD output Show added lines at end of FILE continuously [follow] Show lines from line N of FILE... Display number of lines/words/characters in FILE [word count/line/word/char] Display number of lines/words/characters of CMD output</p>
<pre>echo [-n] "TXT" clear CTRL-L date [+FORMAT]</pre>	<p>Display TXT on terminal (<i>-n=without linefeed!</i>) [no newline] Erase terminal content (blank screen) [formfeed/leeren] Display date/time (according to FORMAT, e.g. %T %D %H:%M:%S %d.%m.%Y)</p>
<pre>more/less FILE... SPACE RETURN b 1G G NG /TXT ?TXT n N :n :p q h</pre>	<p>Page through FILE by following cmds (man autom. uses more/less!): Skip 1 page/line further [space key/return key] Skip 1 page back (<i>only less!</i>) [backward] Go to top/bottom/line N of file (<i>nur less!</i>) [Go] Search TXT forward/backward (<i>only less!</i>) Repeat last search forward/backward (<i>only less!</i>) [next] Jump to next/previous (<i>only less!</i>) file [next/previous] Leave more/less [quit]; Display help [help]</p>
<pre>CTRL-R TXT... CTRL-R Cursor-Up/Down !NR !TXT !!</pre>	<p>Search cmd history for last one containing TXT [reverse search] Search next cmd in history containing TXT [reverse search] Goto previous/next cmd in history Execute cmd number NR/beginning with TXT/last from history</p>