

Linux Commands Cheat Sheet

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1 Essential Linux Commands

Command	Description	Syntax	Example
pwd	Show current directory path	pwd	/home/user
ls	List directory contents	ls [options] [directory]	ls -la
cd	Change directory	cd [directory]	cd /home
mkdir	Create a new directory	mkdir [dir_name]	mkdir test
rmdir	Delete an empty directory	rmdir [dir_name]	rmdir test
touch	Create an empty file	touch [file_name]	touch file.txt
rm	Delete files	rm [file_name]	rm file.txt
cp	Copy files/directories	cp [src] [dest]	cp a.txt b.txt
mv	Move/rename files	mv [src] [dest]	mv a.txt dir/
cat	Display file contents	cat [file]	cat file.txt
more	View file contents page-wise	more [file]	more file.txt
less	View file contents (scroll)	less [file]	less file.txt
head	View first lines of file	head [file]	head -n 10 file.txt
tail	View last lines of file	tail [file]	tail -n 10 file.txt
chmod	Change file permissions	chmod [mode] [file]	chmod 755 script.sh
chown	Change file owner	chown [owner] [file]	chown user file.txt
chgrp	Change file group	chgrp [group] [file]	chgrp staff file.txt
ps	Show running processes	ps aux	ps aux grep firefox
top	Real-time process monitor	top	top
htop	Interactive process viewer	htop	htop
kill	Terminate process by PID	kill [PID]	kill 1234
killall	Terminate all by name	killall [name]	killall firefox
ping	Send ICMP echo requests	ping [host]	ping google.com
netstat	Network connections info	netstat -tulnp	netstat -an
ifconfig	Configure network inter- faces	ifconfig [interface]	ifconfig eth0

ip	Manage IP addresses	ip addr	ip route
traceroute	Trace route to host	traceroute [host]	traceroute google.com
wget	Download from web	wget [url]	wget http://example.com
curl	Transfer data from URL	curl [url]	curl example.com
df	Disk space usage	df -h	df -h
du	Directory size usage	du -sh [dir]	du -sh /home
free	Show memory usage	free -h	free -h
uptime	System uptime info	uptime	uptime
uname	System information	uname -a	uname -r
vmstat	System performance info	vmstat	vmstat 1
lscpu	CPU architecture info	lscpu	lscpu
history	Show command history	history	history grep ssh
alias	Create command shortcut	alias gs='git status'	gs
whoami	Current logged in user	whoami	whoami
who	Show users logged in	who	who
man	Read command manual	man [command]	man ls
echo	Display a line of text	echo [text]	echo Hello
date	Show current date	date	date
cal	Display calendar	cal	cal 2025
locate	Find files quickly	locate [name]	locate file.txt
find	Search files in directories	find [path] -name [file]	find / -name test
grep	Search inside files	grep [pattern] [file]	grep "root" /etc/passwd
diff	Compare file differences	diff [file1] [file2]	diff a.txt b.txt
tar	Archive files	tar -cvf [archive] [files]	tar -cvf backup.tar dir/
gzip	Compress files	gzip [file]	gzip file.txt
gunzip	Decompress .gz files	gunzip [file.gz]	gunzip file.gz
zip	Create zip archives	zip [archive.zip] [files]	zip archive.zip file.txt
unzip	Extract zip archives	unzip [archive.zip]	unzip archive.zip
df	Show disk usage	df -h	df -h
du	Estimate file space usage	du -sh *	du -sh /var
umask	Set default permissions	umask [mask]	umask 022