

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
gnumeric	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

Command	Task
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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

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Printing

<code>lpr</code>	Print files
<code>lpq</code>	View print queue
<code>lprm</code>	Remove print jobs

Spelling Operations

<code>look</code>	Look up spelling
<code>aspell</code>	Check spelling interactively
<code>spell</code>	Check spelling in batch

Processes

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

Scheduling Jobs

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

Hosts

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

Command	Task
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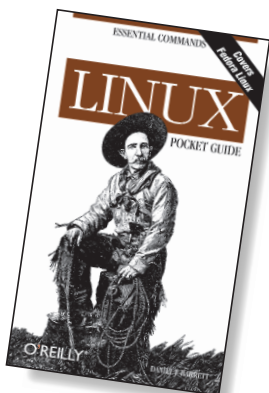
Networking

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

Audio and Video

<code>grip</code>	Play CDs and rip MP3s
<code>xmms</code>	Play audio files
<code>cdparanoia</code>	Rip audio
<code>audacity</code>	Edit audio
<code>xcdroast</code>	Burn CDs

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