

## An A-Z Index of the Bash command line for Linux

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### a

adduser Add a user to the system  
addgroup Add a group to the system  
alias Create an alias •  
apropos Search Help manual pages (man -k)  
apt-get Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)  
aptitude Search for and install software packages (Debian/Ubuntu)  
aspell Spell Checker  
awk Find and Replace text, database sort/validate/index

### b

basename Strip directory and suffix from filenames  
bash GNU Bourne-Again SHell  
bc Arbitrary precision calculator language  
bg Send to background  
break Exit from a loop •  
builtin Run a shell builtin  
bzip2 Compress or decompress named file(s)

### c

cal Display a calendar  
case Conditionally perform a command  
cat Display the contents of a file  
cd Change Directory  
cfdisk Partition table manipulator for Linux  
chgrp Change group ownership  
chmod Change access permissions  
chown Change file owner and group  
chroot Run a command with a different root directory  
chkconfig System services (runlevel)  
cksum Print CRC checksum and byte counts  
clear Clear terminal screen  
cmp Compare two files  
comm Compare two sorted files line by line  
command Run a command - ignoring shell functions •  
continue Resume the next iteration of a loop •  
cp Copy one or more files to another location  
cron Daemon to execute scheduled commands  
crontab Schedule a command to run at a later time  
csplit Split a file into context-determined pieces  
cut Divide a file into several parts

### d

date Display or change the date & time  
dc Desk Calculator

dd Convert and copy a file, write disk headers, boot records  
ddrescue Data recovery tool  
declare Declare variables and give them attributes •  
df Display free disk space  
diff Display the differences between two files  
diff3 Show differences among three files  
dig DNS lookup  
dir Briefly list directory contents  
dircolors Colour setup for `ls`  
dirname Convert a full pathname to just a path  
dirs Display list of remembered directories  
dmesg Print kernel & driver messages  
du Estimate file space usage  
..  
e  
echo Display message on screen •  
egrep Search file(s) for lines that match an extended expression  
eject Eject removable media  
enable Enable and disable builtin shell commands •  
env Environment variables  
ethtool Ethernet card settings  
eval Evaluate several commands/arguments  
exec Execute a command  
exit Exit the shell  
expect Automate arbitrary applications accessed over a terminal  
expand Convert tabs to spaces  
export Set an environment variable  
expr Evaluate expressions  
f  
false Do nothing, unsuccessfully  
fdformat Low-level format a floppy disk  
fdisk Partition table manipulator for Linux  
fg Send job to foreground  
fgrep Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string  
file Determine file type  
find Search for files that meet a desired criteria  
fmt Reformat paragraph text  
fold Wrap text to fit a specified width.  
for Expand words, and execute commands  
format Format disks or tapes  
free Display memory usage  
fsck File system consistency check and repair  
ftp File Transfer Protocol  
function Define Function Macros  
fuser Identify/kill the process that is accessing a file  
g

gawk Find and Replace text within file(s)  
getopts Parse positional parameters  
grep Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern  
groups Print group names a user is in  
gzip Compress or decompress named file(s)

h  
hash Remember the full pathname of a name argument  
head Output the first part of file(s)  
help Display help for a built-in command •  
history Command History  
hostname Print or set system name

i  
iconv Convert the character set of a file  
id Print user and group id's  
if Conditionally perform a command  
ifconfig Configure a network interface  
ifdown Stop a network interface  
ifup Start a network interface up  
import Capture an X server screen and save the image to file  
install Copy files and set attributes

j  
jobs List active jobs •  
join Join lines on a common field

k  
kill Stop a process from running  
killall Kill processes by name

l  
less Display output one screen at a time  
let Perform arithmetic on shell variables •  
ln Make links between files  
local Create variables •  
locate Find files  
logname Print current login name  
logout Exit a login shell •  
look Display lines beginning with a given string  
lpc Line printer control program  
lpr Off line print  
lprint Print a file  
lprintd Abort a print job  
lprintq List the print queue  
lprm Remove jobs from the print queue  
ls List information about file(s)  
lsof List open files

m  
make Recompile a group of programs  
man Help manual

mkdir Create new folder(s)  
mkfifo Make FIFOs (named pipes)  
mkisofs Create an hybrid ISO9660/JOLIET/HFS filesystem  
mknod Make block or character special files  
more Display output one screen at a time  
mount Mount a file system  
mtools Manipulate MS-DOS files  
mtr Network diagnostics (traceroute/ping)  
mv Move or rename files or directories  
mmv Mass Move and rename (files)

n

netstat Networking information  
nice Set the priority of a command or job  
nl Number lines and write files  
nohup Run a command immune to hangups  
notify-send Send desktop notifications  
nslookup Query Internet name servers interactively

o

open Open a file in its default application  
op Operator access

p

passwd Modify a user password  
paste Merge lines of files  
pathchk Check file name portability  
ping Test a network connection  
pkill Stop processes from running  
popd Restore the previous value of the current directory  
pr Prepare files for printing  
printcap Printer capability database  
printenv Print environment variables  
printf Format and print data •  
ps Process status  
pushd Save and then change the current directory  
pwd Print Working Directory

q

quota Display disk usage and limits  
quotacheck Scan a file system for disk usage  
quotactl Set disk quotas

r

ram ram disk device  
rcp Copy files between two machines  
read Read a line from standard input •  
readarray Read from stdin into an array variable •  
readonly Mark variables/functions as readonly  
reboot Reboot the system  
rename Rename files

renice Alter priority of running processes  
remsync Synchronize remote files via email  
return Exit a shell function  
rev Reverse lines of a file  
rm Remove files  
rmdir Remove folder(s)  
rsync Remote file copy (Synchronize file trees)

s

screen Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh  
scp Secure copy (remote file copy)  
sdiff Merge two files interactively  
sed Stream Editor  
select Accept keyboard input  
seq Print numeric sequences  
set Manipulate shell variables and functions  
sftp Secure File Transfer Program  
shift Shift positional parameters  
shopt Shell Options  
shutdown Shutdown or restart linux  
sleep Delay for a specified time  
slocate Find files  
sort Sort text files  
source Run commands from a file `.`  
split Split a file into fixed-size pieces  
ssh Secure Shell client (remote login program)  
strace Trace system calls and signals  
su Substitute user identity  
sudo Execute a command as another user  
sum Print a checksum for a file  
suspend Suspend execution of this shell •  
symlink Make a new name for a file  
sync Synchronize data on disk with memory

t

tail Output the last part of files  
tar Tape ARchiver  
tee Redirect output to multiple files  
test Evaluate a conditional expression  
time Measure Program running time  
times User and system times  
touch Change file timestamps  
top List processes running on the system  
traceroute Trace Route to Host  
trap Run a command when a signal is set(bourne)  
tr Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters  
true Do nothing, successfully  
tsort Topological sort

tty Print filename of terminal on stdin  
type Describe a command •

u

ulimit Limit user resources •  
umask Users file creation mask  
umount Unmount a device  
unalias Remove an alias •  
uname Print system information  
unexpand Convert spaces to tabs  
uniq Uniquify files  
units Convert units from one scale to another  
unset Remove variable or function names  
unshar Unpack shell archive scripts  
until Execute commands (until error)  
useradd Create new user account  
usermod Modify user account  
users List users currently logged in  
uuencode Encode a binary file  
uudecode Decode a file created by uuencode

v

v Verbosely list directory contents (`ls -l -b')  
vdir Verbosely list directory contents (`ls -l -b')  
vi Text Editor  
vmstat Report virtual memory statistics

w

watch Execute/display a program periodically  
wc Print byte, word, and line counts  
whereis Search the user's \$path, man pages and source files for a program  
which Search the user's \$path for a program file  
while Execute commands  
who Print all usernames currently logged in  
whoami Print the current user id and name (`id -un')  
Wget Retrieve web pages or files via HTTP, HTTPS or FTP  
write Send a message to another user

x

xargs Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)  
xdg-open Open a file or URL in the user's preferred application.  
yes Print a string until interrupted  
. Run a command script in the current shell  
### Comment / Remark