

Linux - Commands to Know

This is a quick version of commands to be aware of.

System information

uname -a : Displays all system information.

hostnamectl : Shows current hostname and related details.

lscpu : Lists CPU architecture information.

timedatectl status : Shows system time.

System monitoring and management

top : Displays real-time system processes.

htop : An interactive process viewer (needs installation).

df -h : Shows disk usage in a human-readable format.

free -m : Displays free and used memory in MB.

kill : Terminates a process.

Running commands

<command> & : Runs command in the background.

jobs : Displays background commands.

fg : Brings command to the foreground.

Service management

sudo systemctl start : Starts a service.

sudo systemctl stop : Stops a service

sudo systemctl status : Checks the status of a service.

sudo systemctl reload : Reloads a service's configuration without interrupting its operation.

journalctl -f : Follows the journal, showing new log messages in real time.

journalctl -u : Displays logs for a specific systemd unit.

Cron jobs and scheduling

crontab -e : Edits cron jobs for the current user.

crontab -l : Lists cron jobs for the current user.

File management

ls : Lists files and directories.

touch : Creates an empty file or updates the last accessed date.

cp : Copies files from source to destination.

mv : Moves files or renames them.

rm : Deletes a file.

Directory navigation

pwd : Displays the current directory path.

cd : Changes the current directory.

mkdir : Creates a new directory.

File permissions and ownership

chmod [who][+/-][permissions] : Changes file permissions.

chmod u+x : Makes a file executable by its owner.

chown [user]:[group] : Changes file owner and group.

Searching and finding

find [directory] -name : Finds files and directories.

grep : Searches for a pattern in files.

Archiving and compression

tar -czvf [files] : Compresses files into a tar.gz archive.

`tar -xvf [destination]` : Extracts a compressed tar archive.

Text editing and processing

`nano` : Opens a file in the Nano text editor.

`cat` : Displays the contents of a file.

`less` : Displays the paginated content of a file.

`head` : Shows the first few lines of a file.

`tail` : Shows the last few lines of a file.

`awk '{print}'` : Prints every line in a file.

User management

`w` : Shows which users are logged in.

`sudo adduser` : Creates a new user.

`sudo deluser` : Deletes a user.

`sudo passwd` : Sets or changes the password for a user.

`su` : Switches user.

`sudo passwd -l` : Locks a user account.

`sudo passwd -u` : Unlocks a user password.

`sudo chage` : Sets user password expiration date.

Group management

`id [username]` : Displays user and group IDs.

`groups [username]` : Shows the groups a user belongs to.

`sudo addgroup` : Creates a new group.

`sudo delgroup` : Deletes a group.

Revision #1

Created 26 June 2025 16:05:07 by Steve Ling

Updated 26 June 2025 16:44:49 by Steve Ling