

Enter keywords to search cool tips


[HOME](#) [WINDOWS](#) [MAC OS X](#) [LINUX](#) [IOS](#) [ANDROID](#) [WINDOWS PHONE](#) [WEB](#) [OFFICE](#) [VPN / PRIVACY](#) [KODI](#) [TIP US](#)
[HOME](#) > [LINUX](#)

25 basic Linux terminal commands to remember

by [Derrick Diener](#)

Mar 31, 2019

[Leave a comment](#)

On Linux, the command-line is a powerful tool. Once you understand how to use it, it's possible to accomplish a whole lot of advanced operations really fast. Sadly, new users find the Linux command-line confusing, and don't know where to start.

In an effort to educate new users on the Linux command-line, we've made a list of 25 basic Linux terminal commands to remember. Let's get started!

1. ls

ls is the list directory command. In order to use it, launch a [terminal window](#) and type the command **ls**.

```
ls
```

The ls command can also be used to reveal hidden files with the "a" command line switch.

```
ls -a
```

2. cd

cd is how you change directories in the terminal. To swap to a different directory from where the terminal started, do:

```
cd /path/to/location/
```

It is also possible to go backwards up a directory by using ".".

+ RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

Latest posts



Identity Theft

Best Family Identity Theft Protection Services for 2019



ES

Cómo Obtener una Dirección IP de Estonia desde Cualquier País



ES

Cómo desbloquear Netflix de EE. UU. con ExpressVPN (Trabajando en 2019)



ES

Las Mejores VPNs para Omegle: Cómo Desbloquear o Quitar la Prohibición de tu Cuenta



ES

Las Mejores VPNs para Crunchyroll: Cómo Desbloquear sus Restricciones Geográficas

BE SOCIAL



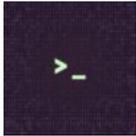
MOST POPULAR TIPS



iOS

iPhone X Wallpapers: 35 Great Images For An AMOLED Screen

by [Fatima Wahab](#)



Linux

How to output Linux commands to a file

Linux

3 Best Ways To Find Files And Folders With The Linux Terminal**Media Streaming****How to Mirror iOS Devices to the Firestick**

by John Anthony

**Android****How To Edit Bitmoji Moods In Snapchat**

by Fatima Wahab

```
cd ..
```

3. pwd

To show the current directory in the linux terminal use the pwd command.

```
pwd
```

4. mkdir

If you'd like to create a new folder, use the mkdir command.

```
mkdir
```

To preserve the permissions of the folder to match the permissions of the directory that came before it, use the "p" command line switch.

```
mkdir -p name-of-new-folder
```

5. rm

To delete a file from the command line, use the rm command.

```
rm /path/to/file
```

rm can also be used to delete a folder if there are files inside of it by making use of the "rf" command line switch.

```
rm -rf /path/to/folder
```

6. cp

Want to make a copy of a file or folder? Use the cp command.

Reader's Activity

- [People](#)
- [Recent](#)
- [Popular](#)

Most Discussed

- **How to change the default Mojave login screen image**
comment · 3 days ago
- **The Best VPN App for Android - 2019 Reviewed**
comment · 1 week ago
- **How to Avoid Common Identity Theft Scams**
comment · 5 days ago
- **The 4 best ftp clients for Linux**
comment · 6 days ago
- **The 4 best Debian Linux derivatives to check out**
comment · 1 week ago

community on **DISQUS**

To copy a file, use `cp` followed by the location of the file.

```
cp /path/to/file
```

Or, to copy a folder, use `cp` with the “`r`” command line switch

```
cp -r /path/to/folder
```

7. mv

The `mv` command can do a lot of things on Linux. It can move files around to different locations, but it can also rename files.

To move a file from one location to another, try the following example.

```
mv /path/to/file /place/to/put/file
```

If you want to move a folder, write the location of the folder followed by the desired location where you'd like to move it.

```
mv /path/to/folder /place/to/put/folder/
```

Lastly, to rename a file or folder, `cd` into the directory of the file/folder you'd like to rename, and then use the `mv` command, for example:

```
mv name-of-file new-name-of-file
```

Or, for a folder, do:

```
mv name-of-folder new-name-of-folder
```

8. cat

The `cat` command lets you view the contents of files in the terminal. To use `cat` write the command out followed by the location of the file you'd like to view. For example:

```
cat /location/of/file
```

9. head

Head lets you view the top 10 lines of a file. To use it, enter the **head** command followed by the location of the file.

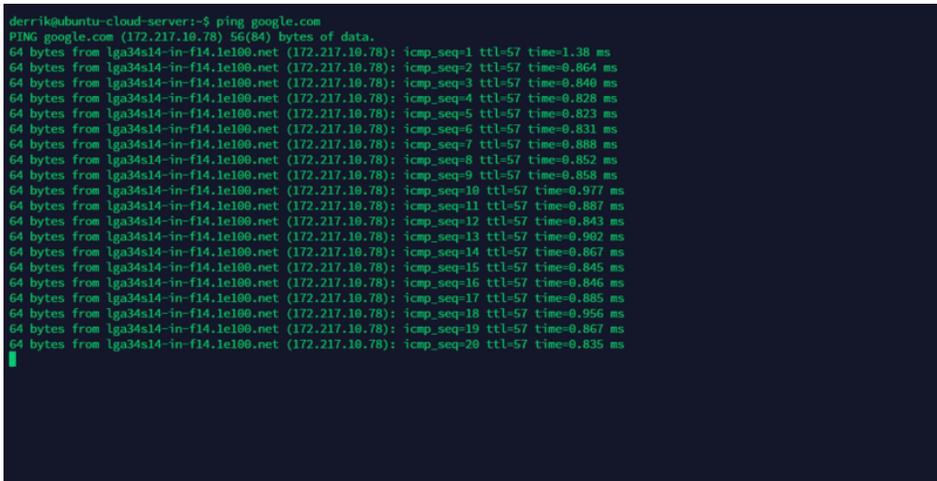
```
head /location/of/file
```

10. tail

Tail lets you view the bottom 10 lines of a file. To use it, enter the **tail** command followed by the location of the file.

```
tail /location/of/file
```

11. ping



```
derrick@ubuntu-cloud-server:~$ ping google.com
PING google.com (172.217.10.78) 56(84) bytes of data:
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=1 ttl=57 time=1.38 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=2 ttl=57 time=0.864 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=3 ttl=57 time=0.840 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=4 ttl=57 time=0.828 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=5 ttl=57 time=0.823 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=6 ttl=57 time=0.831 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=7 ttl=57 time=0.888 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=8 ttl=57 time=0.852 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=9 ttl=57 time=0.858 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=10 ttl=57 time=0.977 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=11 ttl=57 time=0.887 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=12 ttl=57 time=0.843 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=13 ttl=57 time=0.902 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=14 ttl=57 time=0.867 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=15 ttl=57 time=0.845 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=16 ttl=57 time=0.846 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=17 ttl=57 time=0.885 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=18 ttl=57 time=0.956 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=19 ttl=57 time=0.867 ms
64 bytes from lga34s14-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.10.78): icmp_seq=20 ttl=57 time=0.835 ms
```

On Linux, the **ping** command lets you check the latency between your network and a remote internet or LAN server.

```
ping website.com
```

Or

```
ping IP-address
```

To ping only a few times, use the **ping** command followed by the “**c**” command line switch and a number. For example, to ping Google 3 times, do:

```
ping google.com -c3
```

12. uptime

To check how long your Linux system has been online, use the **uptime** command.

```
uptime
```

13. uname

The **uname** command can be used to view your current distribution codename, release number, and even the version of Linux you are using. To use **uname**, write the command followed by the “**a**” command line switch.

Using the “**a**” command line switch prints out all information, so it’s best to use this instead of all other options.

```
uname -a
```

14. man

The **man** command lets you view the instruction manual of any program. To take a look at the manual, run the man command followed by the name of the program. For example, to view the manual of cat, run:

```
man cat
```

15. df

Df is a way to easily view how much space is taken up on the file system(s) on Linux. To use it, write the **df** command.

```
df
```

To make df more easily readable, use the “**h**” command line switch. This puts the output in “human readable” mode.

```
df -h
```

16. du

Need to view the space that a directory on your system is taking up? Make use of the **du** command. For example, to see how big your **/home/** folder is, do:

```
du ~/
```

To make the **du** output more readable, try the **'hr'** command-line switch. This will put the output in “human readable” mode.

```
du ~/ -hr
```

17. whereis

With **whereis**, it's possible to track down the exact location of an item in the command-line. For example, to find the location of the Firefox binary on your Linux system, run:

```
whereis firefox
```

18. locate

Searching for files, programs and folders on the Linux command-line is made easy with **locate**. To use it, just write out the **locate** command, followed by a search term.

```
locate search-term
```

19. grep

With the **grep** command, it's possible to search for a pattern. A good example use of the **grep** command is to use it to filter out a specific line of text in a file.

Understand that **grep** isn't a command that should ever be run by itself. Instead, it must be combined, like so:

```
cat text-file.txt | grep 'search term'
```

Essentially, to use **grep** to search for patterns, remember this formula:

```
command command-operations | grep 'search term'
```

20. ps

To view current running processes directly from the Linux terminal, make use of the **ps** command.

```
ps
```

Need a more full, detailed report of processes? Run **ps** with **aux**.

```
ps aux
```

21. kill

Sometimes, you need to kill a problem program. To do this, you'll need to take advantage of the **kill** command. For example, to close **Firefox**, do the following.

First, use **pidof** to find the process number for Firefox.

```
pidof
```

Then, kill it with the **kill** command.

```
kill process-id-number
```

Still won't close? Use the **"9"** command-line switch.

```
kill -9 process-id-number
```

22. killall

Using the **killall** command, it's possible to end all instances of a running program. To use it, run the **killall** command followed by the name of a program. For example, to kill all running Firefox processes, do:

```
killall firefox
```

23. curl

Need to download a file from the internet through the Linux terminal? Use **curl**! To start a download, write the **curl** command followed by the file's URL, the **>** symbol and the location you'd like to save it. For example:

```
curl https://www.download.com/file.zip > ~/Downloads/file.zip
```

24. free

```
derrick@ubuntu-cloud-server:~$ free
              total        used        free      shared  buff/cache   available
Mem:           2041348      316636      691320         4132     1033392     1535980
Swap:              0              0              0
```

Running out of memory? Check your swap space and free RAM space with the **free** command.

```
free
```

25. chmod

With **chmod**, it's possible to update the permissions of a file or folder.

To update the permissions of a file so everyone on the PC can read, write and execute it, do:

```
chmod +rwx /location/of/file-or/folder/
```

To update the permissions so only the owner has access, try:

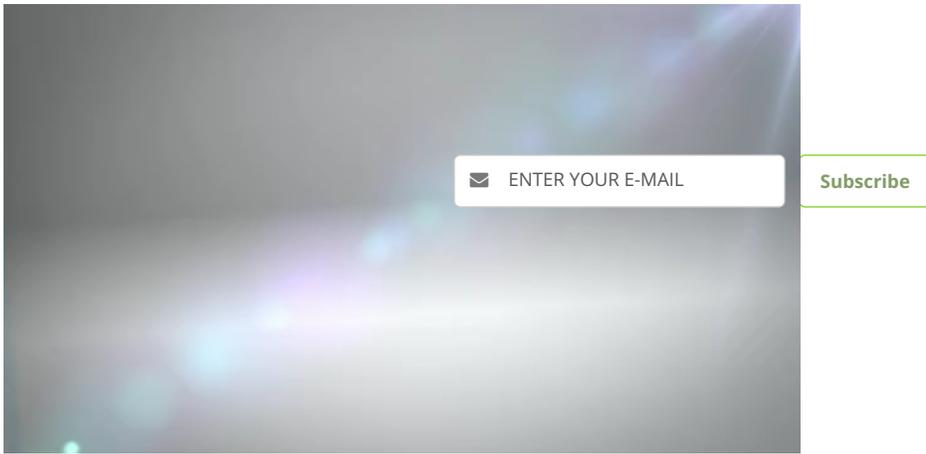
```
chmod +rw
```

To update permissions for a specific group or world on the Linux system, run:

```
chmod +rx
```

Conclusion

The Linux command-line has endless actions and operations to know, and even after getting through this list, you'll still have a lot more to learn. That said, this list is sure to help beef up your command-line knowledge. Besides, everyone has to start somewhere!



- Upvote
- Funny
- Love
- Surprised
- Angry
- Sad

0 Comments [AddictiveTips](#) 1 Login

Recommend 1 Tweet Share Sort by Oldest

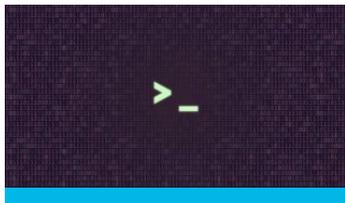
LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Be the first to comment.

Subscribe
 Add Disqus to your siteAdd DisqusAdd
 Disqus' Privacy PolicyPrivacy PolicyPrivacy

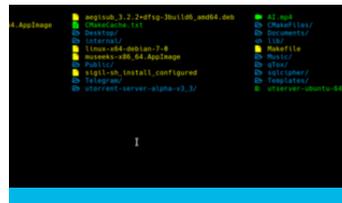
Related Reading



Linux
 How to output Linux commands to a file



Linux
 3 Best Ways To Find Files And Folders With The Linux Terminal



Linux
 How To Make The Linux Terminal User Friendly With ColorLS



Linux
 How To Get Notifications For Terminal Commands On Linux



Linux

How To Run Scripts And Commands On Suspend And Resume on Linux



Linux

How To Split PDF Files From The Linux Terminal Using Pdftk



Linux

How To Upload & Share Files From The Linux Terminal With Transfer.sh



Windows

How to save command output to file from Command Prompt and PowerShell on Windows 10



[Disclosure](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Tip Us](#)

[CONTACT US](#) | [OUR TEAM](#)

© 2019 AddictiveTips. Hosted by [Presslabs](#)