

# Top 100 Linux Commands:

A Master Key for Beginners



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# Abstract



Unlock the power of Linux with "Top 100 Linux Commands: A Master Key for Beginners." This comprehensive guide is designed to demystify the Linux command line for new users, providing clear, concise explanations of the most essential commands. Whether you're looking to manage files, monitor system performance, or secure your network, this ebook offers step-by-step instructions to help you navigate the complexities of Linux. Perfect for beginners, this resource will empower you to master the Linux environment and enhance your productivity.

## Introduction

Welcome to "**Top 100 Linux Commands: A Master Key for Beginners.**" This ebook is your gateway to mastering the Linux command line, a powerful tool that unlocks the full potential of your Linux system. Whether you're a student, developer, or aspiring system administrator, understanding these commands is crucial for efficient and effective system management.



# Unlocking the potential of Linux

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Linux is renowned for its robustness, security, and flexibility. It powers everything from smartphones to servers and supercomputers. Despite its many benefits, new users often find the command line interface (CLI) intimidating. However, once you become familiar with the essential commands, you'll discover that the CLI is a powerful ally that allows you to perform tasks more efficiently as compared to a graphical user interface (GUI).

**Note:** Every command comes with options. The following should be added for this.

For more information about the options available with these commands, you can refer to the man pages or use the `--help` option. For example:

```
man cp  
cp --help
```



# System Information Commands

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- <1> `uname` - Prints system information.
- <2> `uptime` - Shows how long the system has been running.
- <3> `hostname` - Displays or sets the system's hostname.
- <4> `dmesg` - Prints kernel and boot messages.
- <5> `free` - Displays memory usage.
- <6> `top` - Shows real-time system processes and resource usage.
- <7> `htop` - Interactive process viewer.
- <8> `lsb_release` - Prints distribution-specific information.
- <9> `arch` - Displays machine architecture.
- <10> `uname` - Shows system information (redundant).



# File and Directory Management

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- <1> ls - Lists directory contents.
- <2> cd - Changes the current directory.
- <3> pwd - Prints the current working directory.
- <4> mkdir - Creates a new directory.
- <5> rmdir - Removes empty directories.
- <6> touch - Creates an empty file or updates the timestamp of an existing file.
- <7> rm - Removes files or directories.
- <8> cp - Copies files or directories.
- <9> mv - Moves or renames files or directories.
- <10> ln - Creates hard or symbolic links.



# File Viewing and Editing

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- <1> cat - Concatenates and displays file content.
- <2> more - Views file content one screen at a time.
- <3> less - Similar to more but with more features.
- <4> tail - Outputs the last part of files.
- <5> head - Outputs the first part of files.
- <6> nano - Simple text editor in the terminal.
- <7> vi/vim - Powerful text editor.
- <8> gedit - GUI text editor for GNOME.
- <9> awk - Pattern scanning and processing language.
- <10> sed - Stream editor for filtering and transforming text.



# File Permissions and Ownership

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- <1> `chmod` - Changes file permissions.
- <2> `chown` - Changes file owner and group.
- <3> `chgrp` - Changes group ownership.
- <4> `umask` - Sets default file permissions.
- <5> `stat` - Displays detailed file or file system status.
- <6> `getfacl` - Gets file access control lists.
- <7> `setfacl` - Sets file access control lists.
- <8> `lsattr` - Lists file attributes on a Linux second extended file system.
- <9> `chattr` - Changes file attributes on a Linux file system.
- <10> `usermod` - Modifies user account properties.





# Networking Commands

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- <1> `ifconfig` - Configures network interfaces.
- <2> `ip` - Shows/manages IP addresses and routing.
- <3> `ping` - Checks network connectivity.
- <4> `netstat` - Displays network connections, routing tables, interface statistics, masquerade connections, and multicast memberships.
- <5> `ss` - Another utility to investigate sockets.
- <6> `traceroute` - Tracks the route packets take to a network host.
- <7> `wget` - Downloads files from the web.
- <8> `curl` - Transfers data from or to a server. second extended file system.
- <9> `nslookup` - Queries DNS to obtain domain name or IP address mapping.
- <10> `dig` - Another utility for querying DNS name servers.



# Process Management

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- <1> ps - Displays current processes.
- <2> pgrep - Searches for processes by name.
- <3> pkill - Terminates processes by name.
- <4> kill - Sends a signal to a process to terminate it.
- <5> killall - Kills all processes by name.
- <6> bg - Resumes suspended jobs in the background.
- <7> fg - Brings background jobs to the foreground.
- <8> jobs - Lists active jobs.
- <9> nice - Sets process priority.
- <10> renice - Alters the priority of running processes.



# Disk Management

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- <1> `df` - Reports file system disk space usage.
- <2> `du` - Estimates file space usage.
- <3> `fdisk` - Partition table manipulator.
- <4> `mkfs` - Builds a Linux file system.
- <5> `mount` - Mounts a file system.
- <6> `umount` - Unmounts a file system.
- <7> `blkid` - Locates/prints block device attributes.
- <8> `lsblk` - Lists information about block devices.
- <9> `parted` - Manages partition tables.
- <10> `tune2fs` - Adjusts tunable file system parameters on ext2/ext3/ext4 file systems.



# System Monitoring and Performance

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- <1> top - Displays Linux tasks.
- <2> htop - Interactive process viewer.
- <3> iostat - Reports CPU and I/O statistics.
- <4> vmstat - Reports virtual memory statistics.
- <5> sar - Collects, reports, or saves system activity information.
- <6> free - Displays memory usage.
- <7> mpstat - Reports CPU usage.
- <8> uptime - Shows system uptime and load.
- <9> dstat - Versatile resource statistics.
- <10> glances - Cross-platform system monitoring tool.



# User Management

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- <1> `useradd` - Creates a new user or updates default new user information.
- <2> `userdel` - Deletes a user account and related files.
- <3> `usermod` - Modifies a user account.
- <4> `passwd` - Changes a user's password.
- <5> `chage` - Changes user password expiry information.
- <6> `groups` - Shows group memberships.
- <7> `groupadd` - Creates a new group.
- <8> `groupdel` - Deletes a group.
- <9> `newgrp` - Logs in to a new group.
- <10> `su` - Switches to another user account.



# Compression and Archiving

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- <1> `bzip2` - Compresses files using the Burrows-Wheeler block sorting text compression algorithm.
- <2> `bunzip2` - Command decompresses files compressed by `bzip2`.
- <3> `xz` - Command compresses files using the LZMA/LZMA2 algorithms.
- <4> `unxz` - Command decompresses files compressed by `xz`.
- <5> `tar` - Command creates or extracts tar archives.
- <6> `zip` - It packages and compresses files.
- <7> `unzip` - For extracting files from a zip archive.
- <8> `lzma` - Command compresses files using the Lempel-Ziv-Markov chain algorithm.
- <9> `lzop` - Command compresses files using the LZO algorithm, which is faster but less efficient than `gzip`.
- <10> `unlzop` - It decompresses files compressed by `lzop`.



# Final Note



Understanding and mastering these 100 Linux commands will significantly improve your ability to navigate, manage, and secure a Linux system efficiently.

Further Reading and Resources

**Explore** our Linux-based [FAQs](#), and [blogs](#) to get a detailed insights about this operating system's operation.

## Final Tips for Linux Users

- <1> Practice regularly to become proficient.
- <2> Explore and experiment with command options to understand their full capabilities.
- <3> Stay updated with the latest Linux developments and community best practices.

By familiarizing yourself with these commands, you can enhance your productivity and effectiveness as a Linux user or administrator.

**Happy learning!**



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