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Linux Commands Quick Reference Guide

This quick reference guide provides a concise overview of essential Linux commands, covering file operations, system management, and network configuration. Ideal for beginners and experienced users needing a refresher.

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Command	Description
pwd	Displays the current working directory.
ls	Lists the files in a given directory, e.g. ls -al
cd	Changes the directory, e.g. cd /var/www/html
cp	Copies files, e.g. cp file1 backup/file2
mv	Moves/renames a file, e.g. mv file1 file1.bak
rm	Deletes a file, e.g. rm file1
mkdir	Creates a directory, e.g. mkdir backup
cat	Displays the contents of given files, concatenating if multiple files given, e.g. cat /etc/fstab
more	Pages longer documents across multiple screens, e.g. more hugefile
ln	Makes links between files (like shortcuts), e.g. lnln some systems this has been replaced by systemctl command service -s origfile /etc/link to origfile
find	Searches the filesystem for files, e.g. find / -name file1
grep	Powerful tool for searching within text, e.g. grep 'mysql' *.log
vi	Text editor, e.g. vi /etc/resolv.conf
history	Displays the past commands typed, e.g. history
tar	Creates an archive of files, in most new versions it can also compress, e.g. tar czvf usera_hom.tgz /home/user1
chmod	Change the permissions of a file, e.g. chmod 755 file1 (see file permissions later)
chown	Change ownership of a file, e.g. chown root file1
chgrp	Change the group ownership of the file, e.g. chgrp staff file1
df	Displays disk space usage, e.g. df -h
du	Displays file space usage, e.g. du -h -s /var
ps	Displays a snapshot of the current processes, e.g. ps aux
top	Displays the tasks running and their CPU/memory usage, e.g. top
ifconfig	Configure a network device, e.g. ifconfig eth1 up
wget	Gets a file via HTTP, e.g. wget http://www.awebsite.com/file.tgz
useradd	Add a new user, e.g. useradd fred
userdel	Deletes a user, e.g. userdel fred
passwd	Changes the passwd for a user, e.g. passwd fred
rpm	Package manager command, list/install/update/delete packages, e.g. rpm -qa
yum	Update manager, e.g. yum update
man	View manual pages for a given program, e.g. man ping
service	Start/stop/check status of a running service, e.g. service httpd start
shutdown	Shuts down or restarts the system, e.g. shutdown -h now