

A quick reference guide to essential Linux command line shortcuts and commands for efficient navigation and system management.



## **Basic Navigation**

## **Essential Navigation Shortcuts**

cd	Change directory to home directory.
cd <directory></directory>	Change directory to <directory> .</directory>
cd	Move one directory up.
cd -	Go to the previous directory.
pwd	Print working directory (current directory path).
ls	List files and directories in the current directory.
ls -1	List files with detailed information (permissions, size, date).
ls -a	List all files, including hidden files (files starting with . ).
ls -t	Sort files by modification time (newest first).

## File and Directory Management

<pre>mkdir <directory></directory></pre>	Create a new directory named <directory>.</directory>
<pre>rmdir <directory></directory></pre>	Remove an empty directory.
<pre>rm -r <directory></directory></pre>	Recursively remove a directory and its contents (use with caution!).
touch <file></file>	Create an empty file or update the timestamp of an existing file.
<pre>cp <source/> <destination></destination></pre>	Copy a file or directory from <source/> to <destination>.</destination>
<pre>mv <source/> <destination></destination></pre>	Move or rename a file or directory.
<pre>rm <file></file></pre>	Remove a file.
<pre>ln -s <source/> <li>link&gt;</li></pre>	Create a symbolic link named <link/> pointing to <source/> .
findname " <filename>"</filename>	Finds file with the filename from the current directory.

## **Shell Shortcuts and Commands**

#### Command Line Editing

Ctrl + A	Move cursor to the beginning of the line.	Ct
Ctrl + E	Move cursor to the end of the line.	Ct
Ctrl + K	Cut the line from the cursor position to the end.	
Ctrl + U	Cut the line from the cursor position to the beginning.	f
Ctrl + Y	Paste the last cut text (yank).	b
Ctrl + R	Search command history.	j
Ctrl + W	Cut the word before the cursor.	k
Alt + F	Move cursor forward one word.	<j< td=""></j<>
Alt + B	Move cursor backward one word.	(p:
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#### Process Management

Ctrl + C	Terminate the current process.
Ctrl + Z	Suspend the current process (send it to the background).
fg	Bring the last suspended process to the foreground.
bg	Run the last suspended process in the background.
jobs	List all background jobs.
kill % <job_number></job_number>	Kill a specific background job.
ps	Display currently running processes.
top	Display dynamic real-time view of running processes.
kill <pid></pid>	Kill a process by its process ID (PID).

## System Information and Control

## System Information

uname -a	Display kernel information.
uptime	Show how long the system has been running.
df -h	Display disk space usage.
free -m	Display memory usage.
whoami	Display the current username.
date	Display the current date and time.
cal	Display the calendar.
history	Display command history.
echo \$ <variable></variable>	Display the value of the variable.

## System Control

sudo shutdown -h now	Shut down the system immediately (requires sudo).
sudo reboot	Reboot the system (requires sudo).
exit	Close the current terminal.
Ctrl + D	Close the current terminal (alternative to $(\underline{exit})$ ).
passwd	Change user password.
clear	Clear the terminal screen.
logout	Logs out the current user.

# **File Operations and Permissions**

## File Content Viewing

File Permissions
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cat <file></file>	Display the entire content of a file.
less <file></file>	View file content page by page. Use arrow keys to navigate, (q) to quit.
head <file></file>	Display the first 10 lines of a file.
tail <file></file>	Display the last 10 lines of a file.
tail -f <file></file>	Display the last 10 lines and follow the file for new content (useful for log files).
nl <file></file>	Display file content with line numbers.

<pre>chmod <permissions> <file></file></permissions></pre>	Change file permissions. <permissions> can be in octal (e.g., 755) or symbolic (e.g., u+rwx, go+rx).</permissions>
<pre>chown <user>: <group> <file></file></group></user></pre>	Change file ownership. user is the new owner, group is the new group.
umask	Show the current umask value. This determines default file permissions for newly created files and directories.
<pre>sudo chmod 777 <file></file></pre>	Grants read, write, and execute permissions to everyone (use with extreme caution).
<pre>sudo chown <user>:<group> <file></file></group></user></pre>	Example to change file owner and group of file.
<pre>stat <file></file></pre>	Displays status and details about the file.