

Basic Commands in Linux

Spoken Tutorial Project
National Mission on Education through ICT
<http://spoken-tutorial.org>

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Introduction:

In this tutorial, we will study

- Some basic Linux commands



Pre-requisites :

- I am using Linux OS



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- I am using Linux OS
- You should know how to get started with the Linux OS



Pre-requisites :

- I am using Linux OS
- You should know how to get started with the Linux OS
- If not, please refer to the relevant Linux spoken tutorial on <http://spoken-tutorial.org>



Learning Objectives:

In this tutorial, we will see



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In this tutorial, we will see

- **What are Commands**



Learning Objectives:

In this tutorial, we will see

- What are **Commands**
- What is a **Command interpreter**



Learning Objectives:

In this tutorial, we will see

- What are **Commands**
- What is a **Command interpreter**
- Find help in Linux using the **man** command



Commands

What are Commands ?



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- **Commands are in lower case.**



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What are Commands ?

- Words that, when keyed in, cause some actions to take place.
- Seldom more than four characters in length, like **ls**, **who**, **ps**, etc.
- Commands are in **lower case**.
- **Commands** are **case sensitive**.



Command Interpreter / Shell



Command Interpreter / Shell

- **Program that acts as the interface between us and the Linux system.**



Command Interpreter / Shell

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- Allows us to enter commands for the operating system to execute.



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- Allows us to enter commands for the operating system to execute.
- On Linux, multiple shells can be installed.



Command Interpreter / Shell

- **Standard shell in Linux - Bash shell.**



Command Interpreter / Shell

- Standard shell in Linux - **Bash shell**.
- Most commands run on all Linux shells, with slight variations.



Command Interpreter / Shell

- Standard shell in Linux - **Bash shell**.
- Most commands run on all Linux shells, with slight variations.
- **Bash** is the most popular and most portable shell.



Other Shells

- **Other shells**
 - **Bourne shell (sh)**
 - **C Shell (csh)**
 - **Korn shell(ksh)**



Types of Commands



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- External Commands
 - Separate files/program
 - Eg : most commands like **ls**, **ps**, etc.



Types of Commands

- **External Commands**
 - Separate files/program
 - Eg : most commands like **ls**, **ps**, etc.
- **Internal Commands**
 - Implementation is written within the shell
 - Do not exist as separate files
 - Eg : **echo**



Structure of Commands



Structure of Commands

- One word or multiple words separated by white spaces.



Structure of Commands

- One word or multiple words separated by white spaces.
- In the case of multiple words-
First word - the actual name of the command.
Other words - arguments.



Structure of Commands

- Arguments can be options or expressions or filenames.



Structure of Commands

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- A command can perform different task depending on the options specified.



Structure of Commands

- Arguments can be options or expressions or filenames.
- A command can perform different task depending on the options specified.
- Preceded by a single or double minus sign called short and long option.
(-) (—)



man Command



man Command

- **man** is System's Manual Pager.



man Command

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- Each argument given is a name of a program, utility or function.



man Command

- **man** is System's Manual Pager.
- Each argument given is a name of a program, utility or function.
- The manual page associated with each argument is found and displayed.



man Command

- A section, if provided, will direct **man** to look only in that section of the manual.



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man Command

- A section, if provided, will direct **man** to look only in that section of the manual.
- By default, all sections are searched in a pre-defined order but it displays only the first page found.
- Use **man man** to know about **man** command itself.



Options of man Command



Options of man Command

- Sometimes we do not know the exact command.



Options of man Command

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- **man** provides **-k** option.



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- It takes a list of keywords and returns their brief purpose.



Options of man Command

- Sometimes we do not know the exact command.
- **man** provides **-k** option.
- It takes a list of keywords and returns their brief purpose.
- **Eg- create a directory**



Acknowledgement

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- More information:
<http://spoken-tutorial.org/NMEICT-Intro>

