

Basic File Management

cp file name [-r creates destination]	
mv Linux Command Cheatsheet to Linux	is also for renaming
add -i, -n or -v	ask first, no overwrite, show result
cat filename	opens the file to read
less	breaks results down into pages
mkdir/rm directory	
rm	
cd	
touch	creates a new file

Listing Files

-h	human readable
-d	lists the details
-R	recursive [all sub-directories]
-s	sorts by name
-t	sorts by time

Working with File Permissions

chmod 777 [name of file]	assign read, write & execute to all users
chmod 755 [name of file]	read, write & execute for owner - read & execute for all other users
chmod 766 [name of file]	full permission to owner - read and write to others
chown [OPTIONS] [OWNER] FILE	change ownership

File Compression

gzip	common compression tool
gunzip	

File Archiving

tar -cvf mybackups/udev.tar /etc/udev	
-c option tells the tar command to create a tar file.	
-v option stands for "verbose", which instructs the tar command to demonstrate what it is doing.	
-f option is used to specify the name of the tar file.	

Review Archive Contents

tar -tvf mybackups/udev.tar	
-----------------------------	--

Create a Compressed Archive

tar -zcvf mybackups/udev.tar.gz /etc/udev	create an archive
tar -xvf udev.tar.gz	extract an archive
tar -rvf udev.tar /etc/hosts	add a file to existing archive

File type descriptors

Symbol	File Type	Description
d	directory	A file used to store other files.
-	regular file	Includes readable files, images files, binary files, and compressed files.
l	symbolic link	Points to another file.
s	socket	Allows for communication between processes.
p	pipe	Allows for communication between processes.
b	block file	Used to communicate with hardware.
c	character file	Used to communicate with hardware.

File Type

- rw-r--r-- 1 root root 15322 Dec 10 21:33 alternatives.log	
d rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 4096 Jul 19 06:52 apt	

Permissions

d rwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Jul 19 06:51 journal	
---	--

Hard Link Count

-rw-r----- 1 syslog adm 371 Dec 15 16:38 auth.log	
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Jul 19 06:51 journal	

User Owner

-rw-r----- 1 syslog adm 197 Dec 15 16:38 cron.log	
---	--



Group Owner

```
-rw-rw-r-- 1 root utmp 292584 Dec 15 16:38 lastlog
```

Timestamp

```
-rw-rw---- 1 root utmp 0 May 26 2018 btmp
```

File Size

```
-rw-r----- 1 syslog adm 14185 Dec 15 16:38 syslog
```

Displays the size of the file in bytes.

File Name

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 35330 May 26 2018 bootstrap.log
```

In the case of symbolic links, the link name is displayed along with an arrow and the pathname of the original file.

```
lrwxrwxrwx. 1 root root 22 Nov 6 2018 /etc/grub.conf -> ../boot/grub/grub.conf
```



By Mary F. Smith (boogie)
cheatography.com/boogie/

Not published yet.
Last updated 16th May, 2025.
Page 2 of 2.

Sponsored by [Readable.com](https://readable.com)
Measure your website readability!
<https://readable.com>