

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 | assign read, write & execute to all users
[name of file]

chmod 755 | read, write & execute for owner - read & execute for all other users
[name of file]

chmod 766 | full permission to owner - read and write to others
[name of file]

chown | change ownership

[OPTIONS] [OWNER] FILE

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 | create an archive
/etc/udev

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**
Measure your website readability!
<https://readable.com>