Cheatography

Linux Commands Cheat Sheet

by bytebar via cheatography.com/218949/cs/48439/

Navigation & Files

`pwd`	Print working directory
`ls -la`	List all files incl. hidden, with details
`cd -`	Jump back to previous directory
`cp -r src dst`	Copy recursively
`mv old new`	Move / rename
`rm -rf dir`	Delete recursively, no prompt (⚠☐ careful)
`mkdir -p a/b/c`	Create nested directories
`touch file`	Create empty file / update timestamp
`find / -name " *.l og"`	Search by name
`grep -r " err or" /var/log`	Search inside files, recursive
`cat / less / head / tail`	View files (`tail -f` follows live)

The 40+ commands CompTIA Linux+, Security+, and every sysadmin interview expect.

Permissions

`ls -l`	Show permissions (`-rwxr-xr--`)
`chmod 755 file`	rwx / r-x / r-x — standard for scripts
`chmod 644 file`	rw- / r-- / r-- — standard for files
`chown user:group file`	Change owner
`sudo !!`	Re-run last command as root

Numeric recap: 4 = read, 2 = write, 1 = execute → 7 = rwx, 6 = rw-, 5 = r-x, 4 = r--

Networking

`ip a`	Show interfaces + IPs (modern `ifconfig`)
`ip r`	Show routing table
`ping -c 4 host`	Test connectivity
`ss -tulpn`	Listening ports + processes (modern `netstat`)
`curl -I host`	Fetch headers
`dig +short exampl e.com`	DNS lookup
`traceroute host`	Path packets take
`ssh user@host`	Secure remote shell
`scp file user@h ost :/path`	Secure copy

Modern replacements: `ip` for `ifconfig`, `ss` for `netstat`.

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System & Processes

`ps aux | grep nginx`	Find processes
`top` / `htop`	Live process monitor
`kill -9 PID`	Force-kill a process
`systemctl status nginx`	Service status
`systemctl restart nginx`	Restart a service
`journalctl -u nginx -f`	Follow service logs
`df -h`	Disk space (human-readable)
`du -sh *`	Directory sizes
`free -h`	Memory usage
`uptime`	Load + uptime
`uname -a`	Kernel / system info

`-h` means human-readable — use it for df, du, free.

Text Power Tools

`grep -i " fai l" log`	Case-insensitive search
`sort file | uniq -c`	Count unique lines
`awk '{print $1}' file`	Print column 1
`sed 's/old /new/g' file`	Find and replace
`wc -l file`	Count lines
`history | grep ssh`	Search command history

Chain them with pipes — that's where the power is.

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