Cheatography

Linux CLI Cheat Sheet

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Notes

All commands are single line commands despite any line breaking.
Any commands containing "$" are commands that accept one or more inputs.
Examples of common inputs are as follows:
$file - A file such as "/var/www/html/index.html"
$dir - A directory such as "/var/www/html/"
$pid - A process ID
$command - Another Linux command
$pattern - A RegEx pattern, or string such as "html" (string) or "[\d]{1,2}" (regex)
$domain.tld - A domain such as "google.com"

System Information

cal	Show the calendar for the month
date	Show current date and time
uptime	Show current uptime
w	Show who is logged into the system
whoami	Show who you are logged in as
finger $user	Show information about $user
uname -a	Show kernel information
cat /proc/cpuinfo	Show CPU information
cat /proc/meminfo	Show memory information
man $command	Show the manual page for $command
df -h	Show disk usage
du -h	Show current directory space usage
free -m	Show memory usage in MB
which $command	Shows location of executable for $command

Search

grep $pattern $file	Search inside $file for $pattern
grep -r $pattern $dir	Search all files inside of $dir for $pattern
$command | grep $pattern	Search output of $command for $pattern
locate $file	Find all instances of $file

Process Management

ps aux	Show all running processes
top	Monitor all running processes
kill $pid	Kill process with pid $pid
kill -9 $pid	Force kill process with pid $pid
killall $proc	Kill all processes named $proc
bg	Lists stopped or background processes
fg	Bring the most recent process to the foreground
fg $a	Brings process $a to the foreground

ps aux and top both give you the pid of a process

Keyboard Shortcuts

CTRL-C	Halt the current process
CTRL-Z	Stop the current process (Resume with fg or resume in background with bg)
CTRL-D	Logout of session
CTRL-W	Erase from cursor to end of word
CTRL-U	Erase entire line
CTRL-A	Move cursor to start of line
CTRL-E	Move cursor to end of line

File and Directory Management

pwd	Print path of current directory
ls	List files and directories in current directory
cd $dir	Change to directory at $dir
mkdir $dir	Make a directory called $dir
rm $file	Delete $file
rm -r $dir	Delete directory $dir
mv $a $b	Move file or directory at $a to $b. If $b is a directory, the file will be put inside of the directory. If $b is a file name, it will be overwritten with $a

With "rm $" and "rm -r" adding "-f" will force the file or directory to be deleted regardless of the state of object.

Network

ping $host	Ping $host and output results
whois $domain.tld	Get registry information for $domain.tld
nslookup $domain.tld	Get abbrv. DNS information for $domain.tld
dig $domain.tld	Get full DNS information for $domain.tld
dig -x $domain.tld	Get reverse DNS information for $domain.tld
wget $url	Download file at $url

File Permissions

There are two ways to change file permissions:
chmod $octal $file
chmod $perms $file
Where $octal is a triad of octal digits (000 to 777)

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File Permissions (cont)

Where 4 = read permissions, 2 = write permissions, 1 = execute permissions. You can define permissions by adding together the octals digits such that 5 = read/execute permissions, 6 = read/write, 3 = write/execute, and so on.
Each position represents permissions for "-owner" "group" and "world".

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