

### shell prompt

# Super User  
\$ normal user

### simple commands

date display current date and time  
cal display current month calendar  
df displays disk usages  
free display memory usage

### Navigation

cd change the current diretcory  
ls list the directory

cd - : change to previous working directory  
cd ~username : change to home directory

### Exploring Filesystem

file Determine file type  
less view file contents

ls  
-l diplay in long format  
-h human readable  
-a list all files even those hidden,  
-d directory  
-F option will append an indictor charactor to the end of listed names  
-r display result in reverse order  
-S sort by file Size  
-t modification time

### Manipulating Files and Directories

cp copy the files  
mv move the files from one folder to other  
mkdir creates a directory  
rm remove files and directories

### Manipulating Files and Directories (cont)

ln create Hard and symbolic link  
  
\* any character  
? any single character  
[ character] any character that is a member of character  
[ ! character] any character that is not a member of character  
[[ :class:]] any character that is a member of class

### command Options : cp, mv

i	interactive	same in mv
a	copy files and directories of all attributes, ownership and permission	-
r	recursively copies directories and contents	same in mv
u	copy the files that don't exists	same in mv
v	verbose, informative message	same in mv

### Command Substitution

echo \$(ls)  
ls -l \$(which cp) new method  
ls -l `which` cp back tick, old method

### Process

ps reports snap shot of current process  
top diskplays task  
jobs list active jobs  
bg place a job in the background  
fg place a job in the foreground  
kill send a signal to process

### Process (cont)

killall kill process by name

### top commands

1 → show per-CPU stats.  
t → cycle task/CPU display.  
P → sort processes by CPU usage.  
T → sort by time.  
q → quit.

### Process commands

ps aux	BSD style ouptut
fg %1	jobs
kill -1 13456	kill process id 13456
ps -eo pid,comm,-cmd,start,etime	to get process elapsed time

SIGNALS: HUP, INT, KILL, TERM, C-ONT, STOP, QUIT, SEGV, TSTP. WINCH

### Find command

cmin	match attributes/files/dir modified, n minutes
cnewer	match file/dir whose content or attribute were last modified n*24 ago
ctime n	match file or direct whose content or attribute were modified n*24 hrs ago
empty	match empty files and directories
group	match files or direc belonging to group name
iname	pattern like the iname test but case insensitive
inum n	match files with inode number



By **SathyaNarayanan**  
(Sathyanarayanan)

[cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/](https://cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/)

Published 19th October, 2021.  
Last updated 24th September, 2025.  
Page 1 of 6.

Sponsored by **ApolloPad.com**  
Everyone has a novel in them. Finish Yours!  
<https://apollopad.com>

### Find command (cont)

mmin n	match files or dir whose content were modified n minutes ago
mtime n	match files or dir whose content were modified n*24 hours ago
name pattern	match files and dir with specified wildcard pattern
nouser	match files and dir that don't belong to valid user
nogroup	match files and dir that don't belong to valid group
perm mode	match files and directories set to specified mode
samefile name	matches files that share the same inode number as file name
size n	match file size of n
type c	match file type of c
user	match file and directories belong to user

```
find %test %action %options
find ~
find ~ | wc -l
find ~ -type d | wc -l
```

```
-----
b block
c character special device
d directory
f regular file
l symbolic link
```

### Find Logical Operator

```
and
or
not
find ~ \( -type f -not -perm 0600 \) -or \( -type d -not -perm -700 \)
```

### find -actions

```
delete
ls
print
quite
find ~ -type f -name '*.BAR] -print
find ~ -type f -and -name '*.BAR -and -print
Userdefined actions
-exec comman{}
find ~ -type f -name 'foo*' -exec ls -l '{}' +
find ~ -type f -name 'foo*' -exec ls -l '{}' ;'
```

### Find Options - scope

```
depth to process a directory files before the dir itself
maxdepth max num of level that find will descend into a directory when performing test and action
mindepth min num of level that find will descend into a directory when performing test and action
mount direct find not to traverse directories that mounter on other filesystem
```

### Tricks

```
clear clears the screen
history stores the history
script capture all command execution in a file
history: CTRL + {R, P }
!!number : command history number
!! : last command
!?string : history containing last string
!string : history containing last string
export HISTCONTROL=ignoredups
export HISTSIZE=10000
```

### Working With Commands

type	Indicate how command name is interpreted
which	display which executable program will be executed
man	Display manual page
apropos	Display appropriate command
info	Display command Info entry
whatis	Display brief description of command
alias	create an alias for command

### system commands

dmidecode	provides valueable insights into system hardware configuration
lscpu	provides detailed information about cpu

### man page options

1	User commands
2	Programming interface for system calls
3	Programming interface for C Library
4	Special files such devies nodes and drivers
5	file formats
6	Games and screen savers
7	misc
8	system administrator commands



By **SathyaNarayanan**  
(Sathyanarayanan)

[cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/](https://cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/)

Published 19th October, 2021.  
Last updated 24th September, 2025.  
Page 2 of 6.

Sponsored by **ApolloPad.com**  
Everyone has a novel in them. Finish Yours!  
<https://apollopad.com>



### Networking

Ping	Send ICMP packets
traceroute	Print route packets to a network
netstat	print network connection, routing table, interface stats
ftp/lftp	Internet file transfer program
wget	Non Interactive network downloader
ssh	OpenSSH SSH Client (remote login program)
scp	secure copy
sftp	Secure File transfer program

OpenSSH package includes two programs that can make use of an SSH encrypted tunnel to copy file across the network.

- scp
- sftp

SFTP doesn't require ftp server to connect, it needs only SSH running in machines, any machine that has ssh running, we can able to transfer files to server

### Archiving and Backup

gzip	Compress or expand files
bzip2	A block sorting file compressor
tap	tape archiving utility
zip	Package and compress files
rsync	remote file and dir synchronization
unzip	Unzip the gzip files

compression algorithm: Lossy and Lossless

### Hacks

Examples:

```
ssh remote-sys 'tar cf - Document' | tar xf -
find playground -name 'file-A' | tar czf playground.tgz -T -
find playground -name 'file-A' | tar cjf playground.tgz -T -
rsync -av --delete --rsh=ssh /etc /home /usr/local remote-sys:/backup
To copy ssh public to remote machine
ssh-copy-id -i xxxxx_ext_2023-08-22.pub username@hostname
```

- or Hyphen is the stdin and stdout

### Text processing examples

cat -A \$FILE To find any CTRL character introduced

sort file1.txt file2.txt sort all files once  
file3.txt > final\_sorted\_list.txt

ls -l | sort -nr -k 5 key field 5th column

sort --key=1,1 --key=2n distor.txt key field 1,1 sort and second column sort by numeric

sort foo.txt | uniq -c to find repetition

cut -f 3 distro.txt cut column 3

cut -c 7-10 cut character 7 - 10

cut -d ':' -f 1 /etc/passwd delimiter :

sort -k 3.7nbr -k 3.1nbr -k 3.4nbr distro.txt 3 rd field 7 the character, 3rd field 1 character

### Text processing examples (cont)

paste file1.txt file2.txt > newfile.txt merge two files

join file1.txt file2.txt join on common two fields

### Text processing

cat concatenate files and print stdout

sort sort lines of text files

uniq report or omite repeated lines

cut remove section from each line of files

paste merge lines of files

join join lines of two files on a common field

comm compare two sorted files line by line

diff compare files

patch apply a diff file to original

tr translate

sed stream editor

aspel interactive spell checker

### Permissions

id display user identity

chmod change's file mode

umask set the default file permission

su Run a shell as another user

sudo Execute command as another user

chown changes file's owner

chgrp change file groups owner



By **SathyaNarayanan**  
(Sathyanarayanan)

[cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/](https://cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/)

Published 19th October, 2021.

Last updated 24th September, 2025.

Page 4 of 6.

Sponsored by **ApolloPad.com**

Everyone has a novel in them. Finish Yours!

<https://apollopod.com>

### Permissions (cont)

passwd change a user password

### Read,Write, Execute

- | rwx | rw- | r- type | owner | group |  
- world

type

- regular file

d directory

l symbolic link

c character device

b block device

### File Mode [Octal]

000 ---

001 --x

010 -w-

011 -wx

100 r--

101 r-x

110 rw-

111 rwx

chmod 0600 file [ rw- is set for owner ]

### Mode symbolic notation

ugo user, group, others

u+x giving execute permission for user

u=rw,o=x giving user read write and others execute perm

chmod u=rw,o=x file.txt

### Packaging Ssystem

Debian Debain, ubuntu, xandros,  
Style Linspire  
(.dep)

RedHat Fedora, CentOS, Redhat  
style(.rpm) Enterprise, OpenSUSE,  
Mandriva, PCLinuxOS

### Install from Repo

debian apt-get install package\_name

redhat yum install package\_name

### Operation on Package File

**Debian :**

dpkg --install packagefile

apt-get remove package\_name

apt-get update

dpkg --list

dpkg --status package\_name

apt-cache show package\_name (info about package)

dpkg --search file\_name (finding which package installed)

**Redhat :**

rpm -i packagefile

yum erase package\_name

yum update

rpm -u packagefile

rpm -qa. (list)

rpm -q package\_name (check package installed)

yum info package\_name

rpm -qf file\_name (finding which package installed)

### storage media

mount mount a filesystem

ummount unmount a file system

fdisk partition table manipulator

fsck check and repair filesystem

fdformat format floppy disk

mkfs create a file system

dd write a block oriented data directly to a device

### storage media (cont)

geniso- create an ISO 9660 image file image

wodim Write data to optical storage device

md5sum calculate md5sum

dd if=/dev/cdrom of=ubuntu.iso (create image file)

fsck /dev/sdb1 (check file system)

mkfs -t ext3 /dev/sdb1 (create ext3 file system)

umount /dev/sdb1 (unmount the file system, before changing the partition table)

fdisk /dev/sdb (create a partition table )

Generate 1GB file using urandom

dd if=/dev/urandom of=sample.txt bs=64M count=16

### POSIX charcter class

character class

alnum, word , alpha blank, cntrl, digit, graph,lowe, punct, print, space, upper, xdigit

format: [ :alnum: ]

echo \$LANG

export LANG=POSIX

### grep Options

i ignore case

v invert match

c print number of matches

l print the name of each file that contain matches

L print only the names of files that don't match

n print match line with the number

h for multiple output suppress the output of filename

grep [options] regex [file...]

metacharacters : ^ \$ . [ ] { } - ? \* + ( ) \



By **SathyaNarayanan**  
(Sathyanarayanan)

[cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/](https://cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/)

Published 19th October, 2021.

Last updated 24th September, 2025.

Page 5 of 6.

Sponsored by **ApolloPad.com**

Everyone has a novel in them. Finish Yours!

<https://apollopad.com>

### grep examples

grep -h '.zip' file.list	. is any character
grep -h '^zip' file.list	starts with zip
grep -h 'zip\$' file.list	ends with zip
grep -h '^zip\$' file.list	containing only zip
grep -h '[^bz]zip' file.list	not containing b and z
grep -h '[A-Za-z0-9]' file.list	file containing any valid names

### grep Quantifiers

?	match element zero or one time
*	match an element zero or more times
+	Match an element one or more times
{}	match an element specific number of times

It always match the preceding element  
{n} match the preceding element occurs n times  
{n,m} match the preceding element occurs at least n times, but no more than m times  
{n,} match the preceding element if it occurs n or more times  
{,m} match the preceding element if it occurs no more than m times

### grep hacks

```
grep -E '^([0-9]{3})\.[0-9]{3}\.[0-9]{3}$'  
phone.txt  
locate --regex 'bin/(bz|gz|zip)'  
  
for i in {1..10}; do echo "${RANDOM:0:3}-  
${RANDOM:0:3}-${RANDOM:0:3}"; done  
>>phone.txt
```

### Text Processing Hacks

diff -c	context format
diff -u	unified format
diff -Naur oldfile newfile > diff_file	write the diff to diff file
patch < diff_file	applied to oldfile directly.
echo "secret text"   tr a- zA-Z n-za-mN-ZA-M	frperg grkg   ROT13 Encoding
echo "frperg grkg"   tr a- zA-Z n-za-mN-ZA-M	secret text   ROT13 Decoding

-, +, ! : deleted, added, line changes.

```
$diff -Naur file1.txt file2.txt > diff_file.txt  
$patch < diff_file.txt  
patching file file1.txt
```

rotate by 13 places (ROT13)

### Inode cheats

Backup of superblock	dumpe2fs /dev/sdX   grep -i superblock
Restore of superblock	fsck -b 32768 /dev/sdX
dumps ext2/ext3/ext4 filesystem info including inode locations	dumpe2fs /dev/sdX
interactive tool to inspect inodes	debugfs /dev/sdX
shows inode number and metadata	stat filename



By **SathyaNarayanan**  
(Sathyanarayanan)

[cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/](https://cheatography.com/sathyanarayanan/)

Published 19th October, 2021.

Last updated 24th September, 2025.

Page 6 of 6.

Sponsored by **ApolloPad.com**

Everyone has a novel in them. Finish

Yours!

<https://apollopad.com>