

top 15 linux commands

1: cd

The "Change Directory" command enables you to navigate to another directory.

The cd command is THE most important command there is in linux i think. As the command suggests, it enables the user to change / jump to a directory.

Example: cd Downloads

Example: cd /etc/

Example: cd .. (Directory up!)

note: After you have typed cd and entered the first or two letters of the directory you can press the TAB key to autocomplete the directory! so... cd Do (press tabkey) will autocomplete it to Downloads. i use this a lot <--

#2: man

The man command shows the users the "manual" of the command. In some situation you might need to get more information about the command you are using. The man command shows you this information about the command.

Example: man cp

This will open up the "cp" manual document for us in the shell. The manual shows us the parameters available for the commands.

note: To close the manual simply press "Q".

#3: ls

In the absolute top 15 there's no way the ls command is missing. On the third place, the ls command. The ls command is used to list the files/directories within a directory.

Example: ls

It shows us the directories available.

#4: cp

The cp command is available for us to "Copy" things. This might be useful for duplicating files f.e.

Example: cp file file2

note: file is on this case the file the user wants to be copied... file2 is the name of the copied file. It's that simple.

#5 mv

The mv command is used for "Move" operations. The mv command enables the users to move a file/directory to a specified location.

Example: mv /home/bas/Desktop/bla /home/bas/Desktop/fiets

note: the first part of the command is the file that has to be moved. The second part (after the whitespace) is the target directory. Make sure you type in the full path using this command!

#6 mkdir

This command is used to "make" directories, NOT Files.. (this is possible with another command which i will bring up later in this tutorial)

Example: mkdir testdirectory

note: The name of the directory is case sensitive which means that Testdirectory is a complete different directory as testdirectory.

#7 rmdir

When you are able to make directories, you also want to know how to remove them. Removing directories is done by the rmdir command and belongs to the absolute basic commands in shell scripting.

Example: rmdir fiets

note: When the directory is not empty the command will prompt an error message:

rmkdir: failed to remove `fiets': Directory not empty

So make sure it's completely empty before removing it.

#8 touch

Now we know how to make directories and deleting them, i now want to use the touch command. The touch command is used to make files.

Example: touch vogel

This will create the file vogel for us in the directory.

#9 rm

The rm command stand for remove. The rm command is used in order the delete files instead of directories.

Example: rm vogel

note: To remove files you must have the right permission bits set on the specific file.

#10 tar

Sometimes you have to archive files. Archiving files is a way to pack a set of files to one single file. The operation is done by the tar command.

Example: tar -cvf test.tar test (Creating a tar file from directory or file test)

Example: tar -xvf test.tar myextractfolder (Extracts the particular tar file in the current working directory)

In the example i used parameters. These parameters are telling the tar command how to behave and how to execute. After the parameters i entered the name of the file which is test.tar. The second part is the source directory/file of the tar file. In this situation a directory called test.

#11 pwd

Sometimes you really wonder where you are in the system. PWD is the solution for that problem.

PWD stands for Path Working Directory.

Example: pwd

#12 ifconfig

ifconfig is a command showing you information about the ethernet adapters on your system. It contains very useful information like gateway, ip, and packet statistics. For the average user this command is rarely used, but I think it's worth knowing it.

Example: ifconfig

note: To gain information about the wireless adapters on your system type iwconfig.

#13 locate

Locate is an extremely fast searching command. It shows the directories or files each on a new line.

Example: locate syslog

Example: locate syslog | more (Piping structure used to invert the data from locate to the more command)

note: Some keywords return enormous amounts of hits. Use MORE to (see example) clear things up a bit.

#14 ping

Ping is used as a network diagnostic command by professionals. Ping offers information about the network we are on and if the other system responds to us. In cases of troubleshooting network related problems, ping can do a great job to determine the domain of the problem.

Example: ping www.google.com

The command returns the interval and % of loss during the test.

note: You can stop ping bij pressing ctrl-c at the same time.

#15 chmod

The chmod command. The chmod command comes from "Change Mode" back to the unix times. It's a great command to restrict access to directories or files. But before i show you an example on how to use it, some theory.

Chmod is qiet an advanced command to use. So therefore you really need to understand how it works.

chmod works with so called persmission bits. These bits can be set to a certain level of restrictions.

We have the following bits available:

7 full

6 read and write

5 read and execute

4 read only

3 write and execute

2 write only

1 execute only

0 none