

# Bash command cheat-sheet

*Any command preceded by an asterisk (\*) will be a common command*

## File commands

**\*echo** <words> - output text provided  
**\*ls** - lists files and directories in your current directory  
**\*cat** - prints file contents (concatenates files)  
**\*touch** <filename> - create an empty file  
**head** <filename> - outputs the first lines of a file (default: 10 lines)  
**tail** <filename> - outputs the last lines of a file (default: 10 lines)  
**\*vim** <filename> - opens a file in the **VIM (VI iMproved)** text editor  
**\*nano** <filename> - opens a file in the nano text editor  
**\*mv** <filename> <destination> - moves a file to a destination (can be used to rename files and for directories)  
**cp** <filename <dest> - copies a file to destination (used for directories too)  
**\*rm** <rm> - removes a file (or directory with options)  
**\*find** <name> - searches specified directories for a file or directory by its name  
**diff** <file1> <file2> - compares two files and shows where they differ  
**wc** <filename> - tells you how many lines, words, and characters there are in a file  
**\*chmod** <options> <filename> - lets you change the read, write, and execute permissions on your files  
**gzip** <filename> - compresses files using gzip algorithm  
**gunzip** <filename> - decompresses files compressed by gzip  
**grep** <pattern> <filename> - looks for patterns in a file

## Directory commands

**\*mkdir** <directory name> - makes a new directory  
**rmdir** <dirname> - removes an empty directory  
**\*mv** <dir1> <dir2> - renames a directory from <dir1> to <dir2>  
**\*cd** <dirname> - changes directory  
**cp -r** <dir1> <dir2> - copy <dir1> into <dir2> including sub-directories  
**pwd** - displays your **p**resent **w**orking **d**irectory

## System info

**\*man** <command> - brings up a graphical manual for commands, utilities or functions.  
**whoami** - find out what user you are logged in as  
**passwd** - lets you change your password  
**date** - shows current date and time  
**cal** - shows the months calendar  
**w** - displays who is online  
**uptime** - shows current uptime  
**finger** <user> - displays information about user  
**df** - shows disk usage  
**du -h** - shows disk usage of files and directories in human readable format (-h)  
**last** <yourusername> - lists your last logins  
**top** - displays your currently active processes  
**kill** <PID> - kills the process with the Process ID (PID) you provide  
**lsdf** - lists open files  
**bg** - lists stopped or background jobs; resume a stopped job in the background  
**fg** <job> - brings job to the foreground

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Network commands

**\*ssh** <user>@<host> - connects to host as user  
**\*ping** <IP or domain> - pings host and outputs results  
**whois** <domain> - gets whois information for domain  
**dig** <domain> - gets DNS information for domain  
**\*wget** <web download link> - downloads a file from the web  
**curl** <options/URLs> - a tool to transfer data from or to a server

### Common shortcuts

**\*Your shortcuts may differ slightly. Shortcuts are viewed in your terminal 'keyboard shortcuts' and can be edited to any combination of keys.**

**CTRL+C** - halts the current command

#### **Command history:**

**CTRL+N** - next line in command history

**CTRL+P** - previous line in command history

(Alternatively, use the **history** command **or** the **up & down arrow keys**)

**CTRL+L** - clears terminal

(Alternatively, use the **clear** command)

**CTRL+A** - cursor to the start of the line

**CTRL+E** - cursor to the end of the line

**CTRL+U** - deletes everything to the left of cursor

**CTRL+K** - deletes everything to the right of cursor

**CTRL+SHIFT+C** - copy

**CTRL+SHIFT+A** - select all

**CTRL+SHIFT+V** - paste

**CTRL+SHIFT+T** - creates new terminal tab

**CTRL+SHIFT+N** - created new terminal window

Alternatives may be:

**ALT+T**

**CTRL+ALT+T**

**ALT+D** - deletes the next word

**CTRL+W** - deletes the previous word

### Bash operators

**&&** - means 'and'. It allows you to execute a 2nd command after the first one has executed successfully.

**&** - is a background operator. Run commands while that command executes

**\$** - used to denote environment variables.

**;** - similar to &&, but doesn't require the first command to execute successfully

**|** - takes the output of a command and uses it as an input for a second command

**>** - redirects output to a file

**>>** - redirects output and appends to a file

**\*** - is a wildcard. You use it to represent 'all'. **E.g., rm \*.txt** will remove all .txt files regardless of their file names

### Examples

**find /home -type f -size -2k -name "\*.txt"**

Find all files in the /home directory (recursive) with size less than 2 KiB's and extension ".txt"

**find / -type f -atime +10 -name "\*.png"**

Find all files that were not accessed in the last 10 days with extension ".png"

**cd /var/www/website**

change directory

**ls -la**

list all in current directory in long list format, and any hidden files (starting with .)

**strings -n 10 <file> | grep "secret"**

**ssh root@google.com**

**sudo apt install radare2**