

# An Introduction to Linux !

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### NOTE

Assuming you're already logged in

## 1. Absolute basics

Table 1. Absolute basics

Command	Meaning
ls	Displays a list of files in the current working directory.
cd directory	change directories
passwd	change the password for the current user
file filename	display file type of file with name filename

Command	Meaning
cat textfile	throws content of textfile on the screen
pwd	display present working directory
exit or logout	leave this session
man command	read man pages on command

## 1.1. Key combinations

Table 2. Key combinations

Key or key combination	Function
Ctrl+C	End a running program and return the prompt
Ctrl+Z	Suspend a program
ArrowUp and ArrowDown	Browse history. Go to the line that you want to repeat, edit details if necessary, and press Enter to save time.
Tab	Command or filename completion; when multiple choices are possible, the system will either signal with an audio or visual bell, or, if too many choices are possible, ask you if you want to see them all.
Tab Tab	Shows file or command completion possibilities.
Shift+PageUp and Shift+PageDown	Browse terminal buffer (to see text that has "scrolled off" the screen).

## 1.2. ls -l

```
# ls -al
drwxrwxr-x 4 zeus zeus 4096 0K 23 21:55 .
drwxrwxr-x 9 zeus zeus 4096 0K 15 14:28 ..
drwxrwxr-x 8 zeus zeus 4096 0K 23 21:55 .git
drwxrwxr-x 4 zeus zeus 4096 0K 14 20:24 install
crw----- 1 root root      5,  1 0K 23 21:22 console
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root      11 0K 23 21:21 core -> /proc/kcore
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root      100 0K 23 21:22 cpu
crw----- 1 root root     10,  59 0K 23 21:21 cpu_dma_latency
crw----- 1 root root     10, 203 0K 23 21:21 cuse
-rw-rw-r-- 1 zeus zeus 1517 0K 23 21:55 INSTALL.md
-rw-rw-r-- 1 zeus zeus 33883 0K 15 14:28 LICENSE
-rw-rw-r-- 1 zeus zeus  691 0K 17 11:13 README.md
```

### 1.2.1. File types

This table gives an overview of the characters determining the file type:



`drwxrwxr-x 4 zeus zeus 4096 Окт 14 20:24 install`

Table 3. File types in a long list

Symbol	Meaning
-	Regular file
d	Directory
l	Link
c	Special file
s	Socket
p	Named pipe
b	Block device



`-rw-rw-r-- 1 zeus zeus 1517 Окт 23 21:55 INSTALL.md`

### 1.2.2. Access rights

Table 4. Access rights

Code	Meaning
0 or -	The access right that is supposed to be on this place is not granted.
4 or	read access is granted to the user category defined in this place
2 or	write permission is granted to the user category defined in this place
1 or	execute permission is granted to the user category defined in this place

### 1.2.3. User group codes

Table 5. User group codes

Code	Meaning	
u	user permissions	<code>-rw-rw-r--</code>
g	group permissions	<code>-rw-rw-r--</code>
o	permissions for others	<code>-rw-rw-rw-</code>

## 1.2.4. Exercises

```
touch example
chmod 400 example
ls -l example
chmod 500 example
ls -l example
chmod 600 example
ls -l example
chmod 644 example
ls -l example
chmod 660 example
ls -l example
chmod 700 example
ls -l example
chmod 755 example
ls -l example
chmod 775 example
ls -l example
ls -l example
chmod 777 example
ls -l example
```

## 2. Linux file system layout

Table 6. Subdirectories of the root directory

Directory	Content
/bin	Common programs, shared by the system, the system administrator and the users.
/boot	The startup files and the kernel, vmlinuz. In some recent distributions also grub data. Grub is the GRand Unified Boot loader and is an attempt to get rid of the many different boot-loaders we know today.
/dev	Contains references to all the CPU peripheral hardware, which are represented as files with special properties.
/etc	Most important system configuration files are in /etc
/home	Home directories of the common users.
/lib	Library files, includes files for all kinds of programs needed by the system and the users.
/mnt	Standard mount point for external file systems, e.g. a CD-ROM or a digital camera.

Directory	Content
/opt	Typically contains extra and third party software.
/proc	A virtual file system containing information about system resources.
/root	The administrative user's home directory. Mind the difference between /, the root directory and /root, the home directory of the root user.
/sbin	Programs for use by the system and the system administrator.
/tmp	Temporary space for use by the system, cleaned upon reboot, so don't use this for saving any work!
/usr	Programs, libraries, documentation etc. for all user-related programs.
/var	Storage for all variable files and temporary files created by users, such as log files, the mail queue, the print spooler area, space for temporary storage of files downloaded from the Internet, or to keep an image of a CD before burning it.

## 3. Find and grep

### 3.1. find

The find tool, known from UNIX, is very powerful. This command not only allows you to search file names, it can also accept file size, date of last change and other file properties as criteria for a search.

The most common use is for finding file names:



```
find <path> -name <searchstring>
```

This can be interpreted as "Look in all files and subdirectories contained in a given path, and print the names of the files containing the search string in their name" (**not in their content**).

```
find /etc -name "*.conf"
```

### 3.2. grep

grep is used for filtering input lines and returning certain patterns to the output.



grep "string" path/to/file

```
grep "root" /etc/passwd
```

## 3.3. find and grep command together

```
find /etc -name "*.conf" -exec grep -Hns "conf" {} \;
```

### Explanation

```
-H, --with-filename
    Print the filename for each match
-n, --line-number
    Prefix each line of output with the 1-based line number within its input file
-s, --no-messages
    Suppress error messages about nonexistent or unreadable files.
```



This can be interpreted as

- "Look for \*.conf files and subdirectories contained in /etc, and **if true** exec **grep -Hns conf** in the given file"



Very powerful in bash scripts create a file test.sh .bash script

```
#!/bin/bash
STRING=$(find /etc -name "*.conf" -exec grep -Hns "conf" {} \;)
echo $STRING
```

exec it .bash script

```
chmod 700 test.sh
./test.sh
```

## 4. Managing software

### 4.1. APT

WHAT IS APT?

A packaging system simply provides programs and applications for installation.

APT(Advanced Package Tool) is a command line tool that is the most efficient and preferred way of managing software from the command line for Debian and Debian based Linux distributions like Ubuntu . It manages dependencies effectively, maintains large configuration files and properly

handles upgrades and downgrades to ensure system stability.

### 4.1.1. Updating Package Database

Before commencing any operations with apt, we need to ensure that our local copy of the database is up-to-date. Without this the system won't know if there are newer packages available or not.

```
apt-get update
```

### 4.1.2. Upgrading Package Database

Once your package database has been updated, you can now upgrade the packages with updates installed on you machine. This will update any applications, and the Ubuntu core system to the latest versions available.

```
sudo apt-get upgrade
```

### 4.1.3. SEARCH FOR PACKAGES WITH APT

To search for a package you can use the following command:

```
apt search apache2
```

### 4.1.4. INSTALLING NEW PACKAGES

If you are find the name of the package you want to install, you can install it by running this command:

```
apt install apache2 vlc
```

### 4.1.5. REMOVING INSTALLED PACKAGES

To uninstall a package from your system, you can use the following command:

```
apt remove vlc
```



This command removes the package but keeps the configuration files. So in case you reinstall the same package, your configuration remains the same. If you want to remove both the package and its associated configuration files, you can run this command:

```
apt purge vlc
```

#### 4.1.6. clean up any unused libraries and packages

```
apt autoremove
```

This command automatically removes any packages that aren't used or associated with any installed program. It's a great way to clean up any unused libraries and packages you don't need.



*Reminder*

Caminante, no hay camino,  
se hace camino al andar.

Wanderer, there is no path,  
the path is made by walking.

**Antonio Machado** Campos de Castilla