

Basic Linux commands by example

This is a small subset of the standard Linux commands. Most of them are more powerful than shown in the following examples. A deeper discussion (but still readable and simple) can be found in [1] and in several web sites like [2]. More technical and complete information is available through the `man` command (e.g., `man ls`).

<code>cat myfile.txt</code>	Show the content of <code>myfile.txt</code>
<code>cd mydirectory</code>	Change the current directory to <code>mydirectory</code>
<code>chmod a+x myprogram</code>	Turn <code>myprogram</code> into an executable file
<code>cp myfile otherfile</code>	Copy <code>myfile</code> to <code>otherfile</code> . Use the option <code>-r</code> for folders
<code>chmod u+rw myfile</code>	Give permission to the user to read and write in <code>myfile</code>
<code>diff myfile1 myfile2</code>	Compare <code>myfile1</code> and <code>myfile2</code>
<code>killall pronom</code>	Kill the processes named <code>pronom</code>
<code>ls</code>	Show the directory of files and folders. Use the option <code>-l</code> for more information and <code>-a</code> for seeing the hidden files. The color gives indications about the type of the files but it is not always reliable
<code>man commandname</code>	Show the information about <code>commandname</code> . In some cases it also works with applications or non-standard Linux commands
<code>mkdir myfolder</code>	Create the folder <code>myfolder</code>
<code>more myfile.txt</code>	Show the content of <code>myfile.txt</code> page by page
<code>mv myfile otherfile</code>	Move (rename) <code>myfile</code> to <code>otherfile</code>
<code>ps -A</code>	Show the processes and their status. Use the option <code>-aux</code> for a more complete list
<code>rm myfile</code>	Delete the file <code>myfile</code> . This operation cannot be undone. Use the graphic interface for moving a file to the Trash. Use the option <code>-r</code> for folders
<code>wc myfile.txt</code>	Count bytes, words and lines of <code>myfile.txt</code>

Some commands to launch applications:

`firefox` Web navigator (`konqueror` is also a a web browser and file manager under KDE)
`gcc` C compiler (use `gcc -o outputfile inputfile.c -lm` here `-lm` links the Math library)
`kwrite` Basic KDE text editor (if not available `kate` is fairly similar)
`python` Python interpreter
`sage` SAGE mathematical package (use `-notebook` for the web interface)

References

- [1] P. Sanz Mercado, A. Luna Fernández. Principios y administración de Linux. Documentos de trabajo 83. Ediciones de la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid 2009.
- [2] An A-Z index of the Bash command line for Linux. <http://ss64.com/bash/>.
- [3] Linux cheat sheet. http://wiki.typo3.org/Linux_cheat_sheet.