

# Linux Quick Reference



## Help

man Print manual for command

## File & Directory Manipulation

ls List directory contents  
cp Copy files  
mv Move/rename files  
rm Remove files  
ln Link files  
cd Change directory  
pwd Print present working directory  
mkdir Make directory  
rmdir Remove directory

## File Viewing

cat prints file to stdout  
more Pages through files  
less Pages through files  
head prints file start  
tail prints end of file

## File Manipulation

grep Searches for matching patterns

## File Properties

du Estimate disk usage  
chown Change file owner  
chgrp Change file group  
chmod Change file protections

## Search & Help

man display online help page  
info online help pages  
find Locate files  
whereis Locate command

## File Comparison and Patching

diff Compare files line by line  
md5sum Compute and check MD5 message

## Disks and Filesystems

df Show free disk space  
mount Make a disk accessible  
sync Sync. filesystem buffers and disk

## Backup and Remote Storage

dump Back up a disk  
tar write tape archives  
rsync Mirror a set of files

## File Compression

g(un)zip (de)Compress files (.gz)  
b(un)zip2 (de)Compress files (.bz2)  
(un)zip (de)Compress files (.zip)

## Scheduling Jobs

sleep Delay for specified time  
at Schedule a job  
cron Clock daemon  
crontab Schedule jobs for cron

## Printing

lpr Print files  
lpq View print queue  
lprm Remove print jobs  
lpstat view printer stats

## File Editing

vim Text editor  
emacs Text editor  
sed GNU stream text editor

## Environment

env	Display environment variables
echo	Print variable
export	Write environment variables
unset	Unset environment variables

## Processes

ps	List all processes
top	Monitor processes
kill	Terminate processes
nice	Run process with priority
renice	Alter process priority

## Hosts

uname	Print system information
hostname	Print the systems hostname
ifconfig	Set/display network information
host	Look up DNS
whois	Look up domain registrants
ping	Check reachability of a host
traceroute	View network path to a host

## Networking

ssh	log into remote hosts
scp	copy files between hosts
sftp	transfer files between hosts

## Encryption

gpg	Public key encryption program
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## Text Processors & Viewers

latex	Compiles LaTeX ! TeX DVI
pdflatex	Compiles LaTeX ! PDF
bibtex	Compiles BiBTeX files
gv	View Postscript/PDF files
xdvi	View TeX DVI files
dvips	Prints/converts TeX DVI files
ps2pdf	Converts Postscript ! PDF

## Email and Web Browsing

pine	email and news program
mutt	email program
mail	Minimal mail client
lynx	Text-only web browser

## Spelling

ispell	Check spelling interactively
look	Look up spelling

## Image Manipulation / Display

xv	Image viewer for X
display	display image
convert	convert image
identify	display file image info
xfig	Tool for drawing figures
gimp	image manipulation program

## Code development

gcc	Compiles C and C++ code
gdb	Debugger for C and C++
g95	Compiles fortran code
make	maintains program groups
awk	Pattern scanning/proc. lang.

## Terminals

xterm	terminal emulator for X
rxvt	terminal emulator for X

## Miscellaneous

alias	Create shorthand for a command
su	run a shell as another user
sudo	execute a command as another user
nohup	Lets a program run after you log out
screen	attach/detach process from shell

