Learning Bash Commands

April 30, 2010

What Companies Use Unix or Linux?

Why should a computer Specialist learn the Unix and Linux commands?

Most likely in your career, you will have to work on a Unix or Linux client or server.

65% of all web servers
85% of all supercomputers
Amazon
Burlington Coat Factory
Cisco
Conoco
Department of Energy
DishNetwork
Disney
Dreamworks
E*Trade
Garmin
Google
IBM
Kaiser Aluminum
Merrill Lynch
National Security Agency
Panasonic
Pixar
Reuters
Royal Dutch/ Shell
TiVO
Tommy Hilfiger
Toyota Motor Sales
US Department of Defense
US Federal Courts
US Postal System
Yahoo

Print Working Directory Command

A simple Unix command that allows the user to see their current path

pwd	Print Working Directory (pwd) allows the user to see the path of the directory they are currently in
Example	$ Pwd `/usr/local/bin`

Change Directory Command

To move from your current directory to a specific directory, we type cd then a space and the path to the directory we wish

To return to the home directory, type cd, a space, a slash and the word home.

cd	Change Directory (cd) will move the user to the directory they choose or back towards their root directory cd with a path written after it will send us to that directory cd by itself moves us to the home directory

Example	$ cd /var/spool/mail
	$ pwd
	/var/spool/mail$
	/var/spool/mail$ cd / home
	$

More Change Directory Movements

When we use the double dot after the cd bash command, we will return one level up towards the root directory.

cd	Change Directory with a single dot (cd.) refers to your current directory Change Directory with a double dot (cd..) refers towards the root directory

Example	`/usr/local/bin$ cd .`
	`/usr/local/bin$ cd ..`
	`/usr/local$ cd ..`
	`/usr$ cd ..`
	`$`

List Command

The List bash command allows the user to see the objects within their current directory.

ls	List will show the contents of the directory that we are currently in.

Example	`/usr$ ls`
	`NX  bin  etc  include  lib64  man  share`
	`X11R6  doc  games  lib  local  sbin  src`

Directory Command

The Dir bash command allows the user to see the objects within their current directory.

dir	List will show the contents of the directory that we are currently in.

Example	`/usr$ dir`
	`NX  bin  etc  include  lib64  man  share`
	`X11R6  doc  games  lib  local  sbin  src`

Calendar Command

The calendar command will display the month and year and then the entire calendar and highlight the current day.

cal	The calendar command will show the current month's calendar and highlight the system date.

Example	`$ cal`
	`May 2010`
	`S M T W T F S`
	`1`
	`2 3 4 5 6 7 8`
	`9 10 11 12 13 14 15`
	`16 17 18 19 20 21 22`
	`22 24 25 26 27 28 29`
	`30 31`

Date Command

The computer's system date and time can be accessed by using the Date command.

To get Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), use the date –u command.

date	The date command shows the system day, date shown in month and number, time in hours, minutes and seconds, time zone and year.

Example	`$ date`
	`Wed May 5 08:38:01 EDT 2010`
	
	`$ date-u`
	`Wed May 5 12:38:01 UDT 2010`

Clear Command

The clear command will clear the display.

clear	The clear command will clear the display.

Example	`/usr$ ls`
	`NX  bin  etc  include  lib64  man  share`
	`X11R6 doc  games lib  local  sbin src`
	
	`$ clear`

	`$`

Concatenate Command

The cat command will allow the user to make a text file when we type cat > the_filename

When we press enter after the filename, we can type in the file. To close the file, we press ctrl-D.

cat	Gives the user the ability to create a new text file.

Example	`$ cat > May5_memo`
	`Meet with client at 2 pm`
	
	`$ cat > May5_memo2`
	`Meet with second client at 4 pm`

Concatenate Command

The cat command will allow the user to combine the two text files into a new file by typing cat [file1] [file2] > new_filename

cat	Gives the user the ability to concatenate two files

Example	`$ cat May5_memo May5_memo2 > All_May5_memos`
	`$ more All_May5_memos`
	`Meet with client at 2 pm`
	`Meet with second client at 4 pm`
	`$`

The More Command

The more command will allow the user to read one screen at a time.

more	Gives the user the ability to read a file one screen at a time

Example	`$ more All_May5_memos`
	`Meet with client at 2 pm`
	`Meet with second client at 4 pm`
	`$`

The Less Command

The less command will allow the user to read the file and the cursor will be at the end.

Press q to exit the file.

less	Gives the user the ability to read a file one starting at the end

Example	`$ less All_May5_memos`
	`Meet with client at 2 pm`
	`Meet with second client at 4 pm`
	
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Make Directory Command

When we wish to make a new directory, we can use the mkdir command followed by the new directory name.

In the example, we changed our path to the home directory and made a new directory called memos.

We used the list command to check that the new directory is in the home directory.

mkdir	Gives the user the ability to a new directory

Example	`$ cd / home`
	`$ mkdir memos`
	`$ ls`
	`memos`
	`$`

Copy Command

The copy command allows the user to copy a file into a new directory.

We type cp then a space, the name of the file we are copying, another space and finally the path to the directory where the new file will exist.

In the example, we used the cd command to change directory and the ls command to see the new files.

cp	Gives the user the ability to copy a file into a new directory

Example	`$ ls`
	`May5_memo  May5_memo2  memos`
	`$ cp May5_memo /memos`
	`$ cp May5_memo2 /memos`
	`$ cd memos`
	`/memos$ ls`
	`May5_memo  May5_memo2`
	`/memos$`

Move Command

The move command allows the user to transfer a file into a new directory.

We type mv then a space, the name of the file we are moving, another space and finally the path to the directory where the new file will exist.

In the example, we used the cd command to change directory and the ls command to see the files.

mv	Gives the user the ability to move a file into a new directory

Example	`$ ls`
	`May5_memo  May5_memo2  memos`
	`$ mv May5_memo /memos`
	`$ mv May5_memo2 /memos`
	`$ cd memos`
	`/memos$ ls`
	`May5_memo  May5_memo2`
	`/memos$`

Remove File Command

The remove command allows the user to remove a file after they respond “yes” to a prompt.

rm	Gives the user the ability to remove a file from a directory

Example	`$ ls`
	`May5_memo  May5_memo2  memos`
	`$ rm May5_memo`
	`rm: Remove regular file ‘May5_memo”? y`
	`$ rm May5_memo2`
	`rm: Remove regular file ‘May5_memo2”? y`
	`$ ls`
	`Memo`
	`$`

Help Command

The help command gives the user an explanation of how the bash command works. To access this resource, we can type the command keyword and a space, two dashes and help.

help	Gives the user the ability to move a file into a new directory

Example	`$ mv –help`
	
	`{gives an explanation of the move command}`

Manual Command

The manual command opens a complete document that describes a bash command. Type q to quit the document.

Man cal	Gives the user the ability to read about any bash command.

Example	`$ man cal`
	
	`{opens a complete document describing the bash calendar. Type q to close the manual.}`

More Command Questions

Want to know more Bash Commands. Get a complete list at:

http://ss64.com/bash/

or

http://www.gnu.org/software/bash/manual/bashref.html