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UNIX Shell Cheatsheet

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UNIX Shell Cheatsheet

Graphical Server
Shell
Executables
Libraries
Operating System
Drivers
Hardware

Flavors of UNIX:
- Linux
- FreeBSD
- Darwin (MacOSX)
- Cygwin
- WSL (Windows)
- ...

Flavors of Shell:
- Bash
- Zsh
- Fossil
- ...

UNIX wisdom: **everything is a file.**
Shell wisdom: **everything is a text stream.**
Script wisdom: **everything is a string**

bash interactivity:
Ctrl-D exit
Ctrl-L clear
Ctrl-R recover command (history)
Ctrl-U erase line before cursor
Ctrl-W erase word before cursor
Ctrl-← move one word left
Ctrl-XX move at beginning and back
Ctrl-_ undo last edit

Basics

Everyday commands:
man
ls
cp
mkdir
cd
mv
rm

Remove files
rm -r recursive
rm -f force
rm -i interactive

Change directory:
cd .. above
cd / file system root
cd ~ home directory

Copy files
cp -r recursive
cp -a archive
cp -i interactive

Examples:
history|cut -d " " -f 5|sort|uniq -c|sort -n -r|head -n 10|sed "s/^\s*/"
10 most used commands

head -n 1 A.csv > out.csv && tail -n+2 -q *.csv >> out.csv
merge two CSV files, not duplicating headers

(cmake .. && make) ; zenity --info --text "Ended at \$(date)"
notify when some (here C/C++) build command ended

less:
q quit
/ search
n next
↑↓ move

Options convention:
- cmd [options] ARG [OPTARG]
- Short: -h -v [or] -al
- Long: --help --verbose
- Arguments: --opt[=]<value>
Examples: \$ ls -a -l ..
\$ ls -al ~

List files:
ls -l long listing format
ls -a all files (even hidden)
ls -h human-readable
ls -t sort by modification date
ls -S sort by size

Wildcards:
*.txt ending with .txt
A containing A
A*.txt between A and .txt
A?.txt one character after A

Misc files:
rename "s/X/Y/" *.ext rename files
ln -s <target> <link> symbolic link

Display files:
cat concatenate
less pager
head beginning of file
tail end of file

Look at files:
wc word (and line & char) count
grep filter matching text
find search for files
locate search for file names (fast)

Count:
wc -w number of words
wc -l number of lines
wc -m number of characters

Filter:
grep [OPTIONS] PATTERN [FILE...]
grep -v filter out matching lines
grep -E use regexp
grep -n show line numbers
grep -A show n lines after
grep -B show n lines before

Text streams:
cat A > B redirect
cat A >> B append
cat A B > C concatenate
cat A|grep stuff pipe

cat ~/.bashrc | grep alias | less
display bash aliases in the pager

Standard outputs:
cmd > out.txt redirect standard output
cmd 1> out.txt idem
cmd 2> err.log redirect standard error
cmd && all.txt redirect all
cmd 2>&1 |... redirect before piping
...|tee -a out print and redirect

cmd 2> /dev/null 1> out.txt
suppress errors and redirect output

Manipulate streams:
uniq remove duplicates
sed replace text
cut extract columns
sort order lines

Sort lines:
sort -r reverse order
sort -n numeric order
sort -f ignore case

Get columns:
cut -d<c> use "c" as delimiter
cut -f<n> get the nth field
cut -f<n-m> get fields nth to mth

Replace text:
sed "s/X/Y/g" replace matching
sed "s,X,Y,g" regexp "X" by "Y"
sed -i replace in-place
sed -e multiple replace

Search:
find . -name "x" by name from current directory
find .. -type f files from directory above
find ~ -type d directories from home

Execute on content:
xargs run cmd for each item of piped stream
find -exec run cmd on each matching file

Execute on each file:
find -exec cmd {} \; execute cmd on found file
find -print0 print found filenames
find -delete delete found files

find /tmp -depth -name core -type f -delete
delete files named "core" in /tmp

find ~ -type f -name *.sh -exec ls -l {} \;
find shell scripts under home and show their state

Execute on each item:
xargs -L 1 for each line of input stream
xargs -I {} replace {} with input argument
cat /etc/passwd|cut -d: -f1|sort|xargs -L1 echo
cat /etc/passwd|cut -d: -f1|sort|xargs -I{} echo {}
display users registered in the system

Execute

Shell interactivity:
cmd run a command
./scr run a script (forgets changes)
. scr run a script (keep changes)
Ctrl-C stop a running command
Ctrl-Z pause a command
fg foreground a paused command

Detach processes:
background=depends on the session
detached =does not depends on session
Ctrl-Z, bg pause, run in background
cmd & run in background
nohup cmd run detached
tmux run detachable shell(s)
Ctrl-b d detach the shell(s)
tmux attach get back the detached shell(s)

Processes:
ps aux show running processes
kill ask to stop
kill -9 force kill
nice run with +/- priority
renice change priority
at run at a date
sleep wait before next command

Chain commands:
A ; B A then B
A && B if A successful, then B
A || B if A on error, then B

Logical tests:
&& logical AND
|| logical OR
! logical NOT

Returned information:
 \$? returned code (0=OK, >0=error)
 \$! Process ID

Shell basic syntax:
Comment
x="A" put "A" in variable x
printf "%x" print content of x
z="{x:-B}" if x is unset, put "B" in z
declare -a x=() declare x as an array
x+=("A" "B") put two elements in x
printf "%x{0}" access the array

Binary conditions:
if [["\$x" == "\$y"]]; then
Strings are equals
fi
if [["\$x" -eq "\$y"]]; then
Numeric values are equals
fi

-ne not equal
-gt greater than
-ge greater or equal
-lt lesser than
-le lesser or equal

Unary conditions:
if [[-n "\$x"]]; then
string is not empty
variable is not unset
fi

-z string is empty

File conditions:
if [[-w "\$fname"]]; then
file is writable
fi

-r is readable
-f is a file
-d is a directory
-x is executable

Shell calls:
#!/bin/bash run this script with bash
cmd call cmd
x=\$(cmd) capture cmd standard output
x=\$((1+2)) integer arithmetics

Special variables:
\$0 program name
\$1 1st argument
...
*\$ all arguments
 \$# number of arguments
 \$IFS Internal File Separator

Functions:
alias f="cmd -opt" cmd shortcut
function f() {...} function definition
f "A" "B" function call
if f "A" "B";then... test exit code

function g() {
local str="\$1"
if [[-z "\$str"]]; then
return 1 # error
else
return by var
ret="\$str"
return by stdout
printf "\$str"
return 0 # OK
fi
}
printf \$(g "First")
if g "Second"; then
printf "\$ret"
fi

Useful commands:
date -I sortable date
mktemp temp file
mktemp -d temp dir

Script

Loops:
for x in "\$X"; do
iterate over split X
done

for ((i=0; i<10; i++)); do
numeric counter i
done

i=0
while [["\$i" -ne 10]]; do
i=\$((i+1)) # same
done

Read file line by line:
while IFS=' ' read -r line || [[-n "\$line"]]; do
printf "\$line\n"
done<"\$filename"

Environment

Environment variables:
printenv show current config
export configure an env. variable

PATH where the shell finds commands
HOME path to user's directory
PWD current working directory
LOGNAME current user name
SHELL current shell
LANG current language
HISTIGNORE command not saved in history
EDITOR default text editor

export PATH="\$PATH:/my/path"
add a directory to the default path

~/.bashrc
. ~/.bashrc reload config
alias shortcuts
function complex cmd
PATH exported env. var.
PYTHONPATH
...

Remote

SSH:
ssh [<user>@]<host>[:<path>] [cmd]
ssh -X allows graphical apps
ssh -L setup a tunnel
scp -r copy across network
ssh-keygen generate keys
ssh-copy-id copy public key on host

~/.ssh/config:
Host brocante
Hostname la.brocante.fr
User louis
IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_louis

Host derriere
Hostname vieille.local
ProxyJump brocante

Sysadmin

Core sysadmin:
sudo execute as root
chmod change permissions
chown change owner
time measure execution time
curl download from the web
sha256sum file fingerprint
ifconfig ethernet interfaces
iwconfig wifi interfaces
hostname current host
df -h disk free
free -m free memory
du -h -d <n> disk usage

chmod/chown:
chmod [uoga][+][rwx] user group read
chmod -R other write
all execute

chown user[:group]
chown -R recursive

Archives:
zip -r f.zip *
unzip -d f f.zip
tar cfz f.tgz *
tar xfz f.tgz
... j f.tar.bz2
... J f.tar.xz

dtrx

Interface

Python scripts as pipes:
def write(something, stream=sys.stdout):
try:
stream.write(something)
stream.flush()
except IOError:
try:
stream.close()
except IOError:
pass

def pipe(in, out, callable, *args):
while True:
try:
item = in.readline()
except UnicodeDecodeError:
continue
except KeyboardInterrupt:
break
if not item:
break
write(callable(item, *args), out)

Useful config in ~/.bashrc:
alias ..="cd .." # go one dir up
alias ll="ls -al" # list all
alias lk="ls -lSr" # list by size
function md() { # create directory,
mkdir \$1 # then move in
cd \$1 }
use up/down to search history
(instead of Ctrl-R)
if [[\$- == *i*]]; then
bind '"\e[A": history-search-backward'
bind '"\e[B": history-search-forward'
fi
alias upgrade="sudo apt update &&
sudo apt dist-upgrade -y &&
sudo apt --purge autoremove -y &&
sudo apt autoclean -y"
export PATH="\$PATH:\$HOME/.local/bin/"

Additional tools:
liquidprompt smart prompt
exa better "ls"
rsync better "scp"
colout add colors to text streams
autojump smart "cd"
bash-completion for common commands