Raspberry Pi – Debian Shell Commands

<https://wiki.debian.org/ShellCommands>

A

* **alias:** Create an alias
* **awk:** Find and Replace text within file(s)

B

* **basename:** Return just the file name alone
* **bzip2/bunzip2:** Compress or decompress named file(s)

C

* **cat:** Display the contents of a file
* cat -n: simple way to add line-numbers to the output of a command
* **cd:** Change Directory
* **chgrp:** Change group ownership
* **chmod:** Change access permissions
* **chown:** Change file owner and group
* **chroot:** Run a command with a different root directory
* **clear:** Clear terminal screen
* **cmp:** Compare two files
* **comm:** Compare two sorted files line by line
* **cp** Copy one or more files to another location
* **crontab:** Schedule a command to run at a later time

D

* **date:** Display or change the date & time
* **dc:** Desk Calculator
* **dd:** Data Dump - Convert and copy a file
* **df:** Display free disk space
* **diff:** Display the differences between two files
* **dir:** Briefly list directory contents
* **dircolors:** Colour setup for *ls*
* **dirname:** Convert a full pathname to just a path
* [**dmesg**](https://wiki.debian.org/dmesg)**:** Output is from the kernel booting, showing the devices it has found and if it has been able to configure them at all (aside from userland configuration).
* **du:** Estimate file space usage

E

* **echo:** Display message on screen
* **egrep:** Print lines matching a pattern (same as *grep -E*)
* **eject:** Eject CD-ROM
* **env:** Display, set, or remove environment variables
* **exit:** Exit the shell (or press Ctrl-D)
* **export:** Set an environment variable

F

* **fdisk:** Partition table manipulator for Linux
* **fgrep:** Print lines matching a pattern (same as *grep -F*)
* **file:** Tells what kind of files are those listed on command line
* **find:** Search for files that meet a desired criteria
* **for:** Expand words, and execute commands
* **format:** Format disks or tapes
* **free:** Display memory usage
* **fsck:** Filesystem consistency check and repair.
* **ftp:** Transerfer/receive files from/to a remote host

G

* **grep:** Print lines matching a pattern
* **groups:** Print group names a user is in
* **gzip/gunzip:** Compress or decompress named file(s)

H

* **head:** Output the first part of file(s)
* **history:** Command History
* **hostname:** Print or set system name

I

* **id:** Print user and group id's
* **if/then/else/elif/fi** Conditionally perform a command
* **info:** Help info

J

* **join:** Joins lines on a common field

K

* **kill:** Stops a process from running
* **killall:** Stops matching process from running

L

* **less:** Display output one screen at a time
* **ln:** Make links between files
* **locate:** Find files using an indexed list.
* **logname:** Print current login name
* **logout:** Exit a login shell
* **lpc:** Line printer control program
* **lpr:** Off line print
* **lprint:** Print a file
* **lprintq:** List the print queue
* **ls:** List information about file(s)

M

* **man:** Help manual
* **mkdir:** Create new folder(s)
* **more:** Display output one screen at a time
* **mount:** Mount a file system
* **mv:** Move or rename files or directories

N

* **nice:** Set the priority of a command or job

P

* **passwd:** Modify a user password
* **printf:** Format and print data
* **ps:** *P*rocess *S*tatus. Lists running process
* **pwd:** *P*rint *W*orking *D*irectory

Q

R

* **rgrep:** Recursive grep
* **rm:** Remove file(s)
* **rmdir:** Remove folder(s)
* **rsync:** Remote file copy (Synchronize file trees) using its own protocol. It may be used over an *ssh* or *rsh* connexion.

S

* **scp:** Copy files between two machines over an ssh connexion
* **sdiff:** Merge two files interactively
* **sed:** Stream Editor
* **select:** Accept keyboard input
* **sftp:** Secure file transfer (FTP over SSH)
* **shutdown:** Shutdown or restart linux
* **sleep:** Delay for a specified time
* **sort:** Sort text files
* **ssh:** Secure Shell.
* **su:** Substitute user identity
* [**sudo**](https://wiki.debian.org/sudo)**:** execute a command as another user
* **sync:** Synchronize data on disk with memory

T

* **tail:** Output the last part of files
* **tar:** Tape Archiver
* **time:** Measure Program Resource Use
* **touch:** Change file timestamps or create an empty file
* **top:** List processes running on the system
* **traceroute:** Trace Route to Host
* **tr:** Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
* **true:** Do nothing, successfully

U

* **umask:** Users file creation mask
* **umount:** Unmount a device
* **uname:** Print system information
* **uniq:** Uniquify files
* **until:** Execute commands (until error)
* **useradd:** Create new user account
* **usermod:** Modify user account
* **users:** List users currently logged in

V

* **vdir:** Verbosely list directory contents (ls -l -b)

W

* **watch:** Execute/display a program periodically
* **wc:** Print byte, word and line counts
* **which:** Locate a program file in the user's path.
* **who:** Print all usernames currently logged in
* **whoami:** Print the current user id and name (`id -un')

X

* **xargs:** Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)

Y

Z

other

* **. :** See *source*
* **#:** Comment / Remark.

See also

* Shell