



Linux

Linux Terminal – Taking Care of Files

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07 Sep 2020

In this section, we will take a look at commands that will work with manipulating files.

touch

This command will either create an empty file, or change the time-stamp on a current file.

```
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ ls
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ touch test.txt
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ ls
test.txt
[dan@dan-home temp2]$
```

cat

The ‘cat’ command will write a text file to the screen for you to view. Eg ‘cat logfile.txt’. The terminal also will let you redirect the output to another command, or file, but we’ll get to that later.

```
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ cat test.txt
This is a sample text file
[dan@dan-home temp2]$
```

head

The ‘head’ command is used to display the beginning of a text file to the screen. It is very useful when redirecting output to another command.

```
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ head -n2 test.txt
Lorem Ipsum
"Neque porro quisquam est qui dolorem ipsum quia dolor sit amet, consectetur, ad
ipisci velit..."
[dan@dan-home temp2]$
```

tail

This command will display the end of a text file. Again useful when redirecting output.

```
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ tail -n1 test.txt
Curabitur hendrerit imperdiet metus, nec cursus eros mattis eget. Sed non mauris
rhoncus ligula egestas vehicula. Pellentesque non sem efficitur, dignissim elit
ac, aliquam purus. Maecenas lacinia sem rhoncus tellus blandit egestas. Aliquam
ut sapien at nibh commodo viverra nec sed lectus. Maecenas vestibulum mi quis g
ravidam ultricies. Donec eu blandit enim, vitae consequat justo. Vestibulum nec e
rat nec nulla fermentum dictum. Aliquam et dapibus erat. Duis varius suscipit en
im eu sodales. Pellentesque quis libero et ligula mattis accumsan. Sed sed odio
at dolor eleifend mattis nec a libero. Duis elementum ultrices euismod. Mauris a
magna vel elit eleifend venenatis. Maecenas vitae mi id lectus mollis eleifend
at et eros. [dan@dan-home temp2]$
```

cp

The 'cp' command is like dos/Windows 'copy' command. It will allow you to copy a file or directory.

```
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ ls
test.txt
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ cp test.txt test1.txt
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ ls
test1.txt test.txt
[dan@dan-home temp2]$
```

mv

This is the move command. It will allow you to move files and directories, with the option of renaming them in the process.

```
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ mv test1.txt hellomynametestfile.txt
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ ls
hellomynametestfile.txt test.txt
[dan@dan-home temp2]$
```

less

The 'less' command will let you view a text file from the terminal, while giving you the ability to navigate through the file, in both directions.

```
[dan@dan-home temp2]$ less test.txt
```

```

Lorem Ipsum
"Neque porro quisquam est qui dolorem ipsum quia dolor sit amet, consectetur, ad
ipisci velit..."
"There is no one who loves pain itself, who seeks after it and wants to have it,
  simply because it is pain..."

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Cras efficitur erat et
arcu tincidunt laoreet. Ut ut arcu quis odio condimentum tincidunt ut efficitur
nisi. Proin malesuada eget turpis placerat fringilla. Morbi ut commodo arcu. Pra
esent viverra nisl eget sapien vulputate, quis bibendum felis posuere. Sed mi er
os, sollicitudin in varius id, pulvinar ac mauris. Cras enim nisl, feugiat vitae
  bibendum at, congue quis felis.

Sed condimentum dictum nisi, ut tempus dui mattis ac. Cras commodo facilisis pre
tium. Curabitur elementum maximus porttitor. Fusce laoreet velit ullamcorper aug
ue convallis, tincidunt auctor dolor ullamcorper. Integer consequat, odio sit am
et cursus sagittis, erat dui eleifend metus, in consequat eros neque vitae liber
o. Mauris venenatis lorem non velit auctor fermentum. Vivamus cursus fringilla e
lit, sit amet sagittis odio venenatis at. Phasellus fermentum faucibus nibh. Mau
ris libero dolor, convallis et pulvinar a, consectetur nec odio. Maecenas condim
entum diam at consectetur venenatis. Aenean non tortor vel nulla rhoncus egestas
. Cras ac diam nec est cursus faucibus sit amet auctor tortor. In sed aliquam du
i, sed cursus ante.
test.txt
```

alias

The 'alias' command is used to create your own command for the terminal. For example in some Linux distros, they come with the alias of 'll' set up already. This is an alias to using 'ls -l' from the command line.