**50 Basic Terminal Commands**

**Added: open a file with this command**

**xdg-open “some.file” (Must be in the same directory)**

**Remove a program with this command**

sudo apt-get --purge remove **gimp** (insert desired name for program removal)

To remove a directory that is not empty, the command is sudo rm -rf nameofdirectory  
remove empty directory.

Here is a list of basic Ubuntu commands which is of daily use and safe to use. Add sudo before whenever admin privilege is required. Don’t forget to change <package-name> with real ones.

apt-get update  
This command will update your package lists. Remember, this will not update software. Run Command #2 or #3 followed by this command. Note that apt-get require root permission. You should add sudo before apt-get.

apt-get upgrade  
This command will download and update installed software. But it will not install or remove extra packages.

apt-get dist-upgrade  
To upgrade all the packages on your system, and, if needed for a package upgrade, installing extra packages or removing packages

apt-get install **<package-name>**  
You may download and install new packages or software named <package-name> using above commands. E.g. run sudo apt-get install gimp in your terminal to install Gimp image manipulation software. Notice the sudo before apt-get.

apt-get -f install  
Sometimes while installing a software it fails. This might happen due to failure in downloading software itself or dependency. To fix broken installation run the above command.

apt-get remove **<package-name>**  
If you don’t like a software you can get rid of that by simply running above command. Don’t forget to change <package-name> with real one. This will uninstall the software but not the dependent packages.

apt-get purge **<package-name>**  
To completely remove a software and it’s dependent packages run the apt-get purge command.

apt-get autoclean  
This command will remove all Debian (.deb) files that are no longer installed. You may find this files in /var/cache/apt/archives

apt-get clean  
This will empty whole cache files. A lot of space could be freed if you frequently install and uninstall softwares.

apt-get automove  
It will remove old dependent files and footprints installed by previous applications.

dpkg –configure -a  
configure installed package

sudo nano /etc/apt/sources.list  
display repository source list in nano editor

sudo apt-get download <package-name>  
download but not install package

Ctrl + c  
It kills process with a signal [SIGINT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unix_signal#SIGINT). Don’t confuse with Ctrl+C in Windows or Ctrl+Z. Ctrl+Z is used to suspend a process while In Windows Ctrl+C is copy command.

Ctrl + Shift + c  
This is a copy command.

Ctrl + Shift + v  
This is paste command like Ctrl+v in Windows.

nano <filename>  
[nano](http://www.nano-editor.org/) is command line text editor. In terminal by running the above command you could edit file named <filename>.

sudo nano <filename>  
This is same command as we mentioned earlier except it will edit file with privilege of super user.

gedit <filename>  
gedit is GUI text editor like notepad in Windows. It will start editing file named <filename> in gedit window.

sudo gedit <filename>  
This is again same as above except it will edit files with SU privilege. It is worth to mention this command because many beginners starts editing a file and later they realize they forget to get proper privilege.

sudo poweroff  
This will shut down the system as the name suggest.

sudo halt  
Halt is supposed to be same as poweroff by many beginners. But it’s not unless you explicitly mention to poweroff using either -p or–poweroff.So if you want to poweroff your system then use sudo halt –p or sudo halt –poweroff.

sudo reboot  
This will simply reboot your system.

Ctrl + Alt + t  
Open Ubuntu Terminal Window, the command line interface. This is a preinstalled software comes with every standard Ubuntu.

pwd  
print work directory: e.g. if you are at your home directory then it will print something like /home/<username>

ls  
list directory: This command will list the items of a directory. If you don’t specify a directory then it will list work directory, the place where you currently are.

cd  
change directory. It will change your work directly as you specify. You will have to specify a directory.g. cd /home will change your work directory to /home regardless where you are.

cd ..  
change directory one level up.

cd ~  
change to home directory. Suppose if your username is tom then cd ~ will change your work directory to /home/tom.

cp  
Copy Command. It will copy a file or directory. It is similar to Copy-Paste in GUI.

mv  
Move or rename files. It is like renaming a file or cut-paste in GUI.

rmdir This will not remove content of the directory but it will delete a directory if it is empty.

To remove a directory that is not empty, the command is sudo rm -rf nameofdirectory  
remove empty directory.

mkdir  
make directory. It will create a new directory. We will need to specify a name.

man  
Ubuntu will help you instantly and has a built in manual. Simply apend any command with man or type executes man. e.g. man mkdir

sudo  
sudo basically allow a standard user to execute a command with root or superuser privilege.

adduser <username>  
As the name suggest it will add another user. You may also use useradd, which is a little bit different from the adduser.

passwd <username>  
This command will change password for an user named <username>. Root privilege will be require while change other user’s password.

time  
time command in Ubuntu will not actually show you current date or time. It will actually run and show the summary system resources usages.Tip: run time gedit in terminal. You will see a new gedit window. After a few seconds close the window and see what appears in the terminal. It will be something like:real     112s  
user     0m0.560s  
sys        0m0.050sCheck this [wikipedia article](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_(Unix)).

date  
This command will show you the current date and time of your system (including timezone).

cal  
This will show calender in the terminal.

wget  
You can use wget command to download things from Internet or other connected networks.

ping  
You may ping websites and other devices with ping command. This is a part of iputils package. Pinging is something like saying hello to someone and that person reply you back. Which means you are connected and the remote person (or system) is replying you back. Try

ping -c 4 ubuntubeginner.com

When you execute this command your system will say [ubuntubeginner.com](http://www.ubuntubeginner.com/)‘s server ‘hi’ 4 times. -c 4 stands for 4 times.

ftp  
ftp (file transfer protocol) is used to transfer files for one system to another system.

ssh  
ssh (secure shell) is used to log into remote system or server. By default Ubuntu comes with SSH program preinstalled.

fdisk  
fdisk command is used to manipulate (add, remove, delete, change) partition of your system. NOTE: Don’t use this command unless you are sure about the consequences.

df  
df is a very handy command which show the storage used/free on your the storage drives connected to your system.

chmod  
chmod is very useful command for beginners. It is used to change file permission. chmod stands for change mode in Linux.

chown  
chown is used to change owner of a file or directory (or further more). Beware about using chown or chmod commands

sudo su  
superuser in Ubuntu Desktop is disabled by default. But if you want to act as a superuser (or root) then use this command. You will be asked for password. sudo su will allow the terminal session to run all commands and activity with superuser privilege.Don’t forget to close the root session by using exit command.  
WARNING: Acting as su or root could be dangerous. Beginners should consider using sudo.

clear  
Clear Screen: Use clear command to clear the terminal screen.

exit  
exit from terminal.

You may print this list and save it for future use. **Don’t forget to share** on social media to encourage our work.

A few tips for safe computing:

You should avoid acting as root or superuser. For Beginners if could be very dangerous.

If root permission is required or getting permission denied you may run the same command prefixing sudo. It will be safe.

-r stands for recursive. When you do something recursively, you should know that your computer will execute commands that many times. If you didn’t defined the number of times then I will be forever (or if nothing remains to do)