



Linux Commands Every DevOps Engineer Should Know

Rahul Saini

System Monitoring & Performance

CPU Usage:

top – Real-time process and resource usage.

htop – Enhanced process viewer.

sar – Historical resource usage.

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Memory Usage:

free -h – Memory usage overview.

Disk Usage:

df -h – Disk usage by filesystem.

du -sh <path> – Directory size.

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Network Usage:

netstat -tuln or **ss -tuln** – Active connections.

iftop – Real-time bandwidth usage.

ping <IP/hostname> – Connectivity check. (**icmp**)

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File and Directory Management

File Management:

ls -lh – List files with details.

cat, less, more – View file content.

find /path -name "*.log" – Search files.

Permissions:

chmod 755 <file> – Change file permissions.

chown user:group <file> – Change ownership.

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User and Group Management

Users:

id <username> – User details.

adduser <username> – Add a user.

passwd <username> – Change user password.

Groups:

groups <username> – User groups.

usermod -aG <group> <username> – Add user to a group.

Logged-In Users

who – List logged-in users.

last – Login history.

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Process Management

View Processes:

ps aux – List processes.

pgrep <name> – Search for a process.

Manage Processes:

kill -9 <PID> – Kill a process by ID.

pkill <name> – Kill a process by name.

Logs:

journalctl – View system logs.

dmesg – Kernel messages.

tail -f /var/log/<file> – Monitor logs in real-time.

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Networking

Connectivity:

curl -I <url> – Test HTTP connection.

ping <IP/hostname> – Test network.

traceroute <hostname> – Trace network route.

Debugging:

telnet <host> <port> – Test open ports.

dig <hostname> – DNS lookup.

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Disk and Filesystem Management

Filesystem:

fsck /dev/sda1 – Check filesystem.

mount and umount – Mount/unmount filesystems.

Disk Partitioning:

fdisk -l – Partition details.

lsblk – List block devices.

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Package Management

RHEL/CentOS:

yum/dnf update – Update packages.

yum/dnf install <package> – Install a package.

yum/dnf remove <package> – remove a package.

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Backup and Archive

Backup:

rsync -av /source/ /destination/ – Sync files/directories.

Archiving:

tar -cvf archive.tar /path – Archive files.

gzip archive.tar – Compress the archive.

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General Troubleshooting Commands

uptime – System uptime.

uname -a – Kernel and OS details.

tcpdump – Network packet capture.

End-to-End Troubleshooting Example:

1. Identify the Issue:

Use top, df -h, or ping to gather insights.

2. Narrow Down Root Cause:

Use ps aux, netstat, trace the issue.

3. Apply Fixes:

Restart services or update packages.

4. Monitor Post-Fix:

Continuously monitor with journalctl or tail.

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