

# From the “[Secure Networking](#)” Course

## 50 must-know Unix-Like commands from Research Unix in 70s

Nr.	Command	Description	Unix Release
01	tty	returns the file name of the user’s terminal connected to standard input	#tty 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
02	cat	displays the contents of a file	#cat file.txt
			#cat -n file.txt
03	cd (chdir)	changes present working directory to the given path	#cd /etc 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
04	chmod	changes permissions of file and directories	#chmod 750 directory 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
05	chown	changes the ownership of files and directories	#chown user1:group1 directory 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
06	cp	copies files and directories to a new destination	#cp file1 ../dir1/ 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971

07	date	shows the current date and time	#date	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
08	df	displays the amount of available disk space for file systems	#df -h	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
09	du	estimates file space usage used under a particular directory or files	#du -h --max-depth=1 .	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
10	cmp	compares two files of any type and writes the results to the standard output	#cmp -l file1.txt file2.txt	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
11	glob	patterns that specify sets of filenames with wildcard characters: * ? [] [-]	Law* matches Lawyer not La ?at matches cat not at [CB]at matches only Cat or Bat Letter[0-9] matches Letter1 not Letters	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
12	find	locates files based on user-specified criteria	#find . -name 'fileA_*' -o -name 'fileB_*	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
13	fsck	checks the consistency of a file system	#fsck /usr	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971

14	ln	creates a hard link or a symbolic link (symlink) to an existing file or directory	#ln file.txt file_hardlink.txt  (test: #ls -i file.txt file_hardlink.txt)	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
			#ln -s file.txt file_softlink.txt	
15	ls	list files and directories	ls -h	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
16	mkdir	creates directory	#mkdir {test1,test2,test3}	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
			#mkdir -m 750 myDir	
17	mount	mounts a file system to a particular point in file system hierarchy (mount point)	#mount /dev/sdb /mnt/backup	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
			#mount -o remount,rw /dev/hda2	
18	umount	disassociate a file system from its mount point	#umount /mnt/backup	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
19	rm	removes objects such as computer files, directories, and symbolic links from file systems	#rm -rf /home/user/Downloads	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
20	rmdir	removes empty directories	#rmdir -p /tmp/myDir/	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971

21	sort	prints the lines of its input or concatenation of all files listed in its argument list in sorted order	#sort phonebook.txt	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
			#du /bin/*   sort -n	
22	stat	returns file attributes about an inode	#stat file.txt	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
			#stat -f file.txt	
23	su	is used by a computer user to execute commands with the privileges of another user	#su user1	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
			# su user1 -c whoami	
24	mv	moves files or directories from one place to another. If both filenames are on the same filesystem, it will rename the file.	#mv file1 file2 (rename)	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
			#mv file* /mnt/backup	
25	wc	reads either standard input or a list of computer files and generates one or more of the following statistics: newline count, word count, and byte count.	#wc foo bar	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
			#cat file.txt   wc	
26	who	displays a list of users who are currently logged into the computer	#who	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971

27	reboot	closes all programs and finalizes all pending input and output operations, then powers to the computer off and back on again	#reboot -f	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 1971
28	man	it is a form of software documentation	#man echo	2nd Edition 1971
29	echo	outputs the strings that are passed to it as arguments	#echo Hello world	2nd Edition 1972
			#echo -e "\033[41m"	
30	login	establishes a new session with the system	#login user2	2nd Edition 1972
31	exit	exits from the current shell	#exit	2nd Edition 1972
			#exit 10	
32	kill	sends a signal to each process specified by a pid	#kill 9 2390	3rd Edition 1973
33	passwd	changes a user's password	#passwd user1	3rd Edition 1973
34	ps	displays the currently-running processes	#ps -aux	3rd Edition 1973

35	file	displays the type of data contained in a file	# file test.sh	4th Edition 1973	
36	grep	searches plain-text data sets for lines that match a regular expression	#grep word /dir/file	#grep -r word .	4th Edition 1973
			#grep -c false /etc/passwd		
37	sleep	Suspend execution for an interval	#sleep 30	4th Edition 1973	
38	wait	Awaits process completion (bg procs)	#wait -n 45983	4th Edition 1973	
39	dd	converts and copies files	#dd if=DVD.iso of=/dev/sdc bs=4M status=progress	5th Edition 1974	
40	diff	displays line-by-line difference between two files	#diff file1.txt file2.txt	5th Edition 1974	
41	pwd	displays present working directory	#pwd	5th Edition 1974	
42	tee	reads standard input and writes it to both standard output and one or more files	#echo "Today is \$(date)"   tee today.txt	5th Edition 1974	
			#ls -l   tee >(sed "s/\x1b[^\m]*m//g" > ls2.txt)		

43	chgrp	changes group of a file or directory	#chgrp root file1	6th Edition 1975
44	cron	runs jobs periodically at fixed times or intervals	#crontab -e  append: * 2 0 * * /home/user1/backup.sh	6th Edition 1975
45	true/false	both return with a predetermined exit status	#i=0 while true do echo "\$i" let i++ sleep 2 done	7th Edition 1979
46	tar	collects many files into one archive file, called tarball	#tar cvfj website.tar.bz2 /var/www/webapp	7th Edition 1979
47	touch	creates an empty file	#touch file.txt	7th Edition 1979
48	tail	displays the tail end of a text file or piped data	#tail -F /var/log/apache/access.log	7th Edition 1979
49	sed	parses and transforms text in stream textual data	#sed -i 's/old-text /new-text/g' input.txt	7th Edition 1979
50	awk	processes texts for data extraction and manipulation	# ls -l > users.txt && awk '{print (\$3)}' users.txt	7th Edition 1979