Linux Commands



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1. keyboard Shortcuts

Ctrl + C # Forcefully terminate the active process in the terminal.

Ctrl + Z # Pause the current task and push it to the background. Resume with fg (foreground) or bg (background).

Ctrl + W # Delete the word before the cursor and copy it to the clipboard.

Ctrl + U # Cut everything from the cursor to the beginning of the line and copy to clipboard.

Ctrl + K # Cut everything from the cursor to the end of the line and copy to clipboard.

Ctrl + Y # Paste the most recently cut text from the clipboard.

Ctrl + R # Search the command history for a match to the typed characters.

Ctrl + 0 # Execute the command found by Ctrl + R search.

Ctrl + G # Exit command search mode without executing any command.

Clear # Clear all text displayed in the terminal window.

!! # Repeat and run the last command.

Exit # Close the terminal session and log out.

2. Basic Shell Commands

alias [aliasname]='[command]' # Create a shortcut for a command.

watch -n [interval-inseconds] [command] # Execute a command repeatedly at a specified time interval.

sleep [time-interval] && [command] # Delay the execution of a command for a set period.

at [hh:mm] # Schedule a task to run at a specific time (press ctrl+d to confirm and exit prompt).

man [command] # Display the manual page for a given command.

history # List the previously executed commands in the current terminal session.

3. System Information

uname -a # Display comprehensive system information, including kernel version, machine, and OS details.

uname -r # Show the kernel release version for insight into the currently running kernel.

cat /etc/redhat-release # Display the version and details of the installed Red Hat distribution.

lsb_release -a # Provide detailed information about the installed Ubuntu version, including codename and release.

uptime # Display the system's running duration, along with the current load average over 1, 5, and 15 minutes.

hostname # Present the system's network name.

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hostname -I # List all local IP addresses assigned to the system.

last reboot # Display the history of system reboots with timestamps.

date # Show the current system date and time with detailed formatting.

cal # Present the current month's calendar with the current day highlighted. w # Display who is currently logged into the system along with their activity.

whoami # Reveal the current user you are logged in as.

timedatectl # Display or adjust the system clock settings and time zone information.

finger [user_name] # Show detailed information about a specified user, such as login details and full name.

ulimit [flags] [limit] # Inspect or set resource limitations for the current user session.

shutdown [hh] # Schedule a system shutdown at a specified time.

shutdown now # Immediately shut down the system for maintenance or power off.

modprobe [module_name] # Load or add a kernel module dynamically to extend system capabilities.

dmesg # Display kernel ring buffer messages, typically used for viewing boot-time logs and system diagnostics.

4. Hardware Information and Management

dmesg # Display kernel ring buffer messages, useful for troubleshooting hardware and system issues.

cat /proc/cpuinfo # Present detailed information about the CPU, including model, cores, and speed.

cat /proc/meminfo # View comprehensive details about the system's memory usage and status.

free -h # Display available and used memory in a human-readable format (use -m for MB and -g for GB).

lspci -tv # Show PCI devices in a hierarchical, tree-like format for easy visualization of device connections.

lsusb -tv # List USB devices connected to the system in a tree-structured view.

dmidecode # Extract and display DMI/SMBIOS data, providing hardware information directly from the BIOS.

hdparm -i /dev/sda # Present technical specifications and information about disk sda.

hdparm -tT /dev/sda # Perform a read speed benchmark test on disk sda for performance evaluation.

badblocks -s /dev/sda # Scan disk sda for unreadable or defective blocks, displaying progress during the test.

Ishw # Enumerate detailed hardware configuration, including CPU, memory, storage, and network interface information.

Iscpu # Display a brief overview of the CPU architecture and specifications.

lsblk # Provide a structured list of block devices, such as storage drives and partitions.

lspci -tv # Display PCI device details in a tree-like format for a clear view of connections.

lsusb -tv # Present USB devices in a structured, tree-like format.

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lshw # Display detailed hardware configuration, offering insights into CPU, memory, and network components.

cat /proc/cpuinfo # Show detailed information about the CPU, including cache size and flags.

cat /proc/meminfo # Examine detailed information on system memory allocation and availability.

cat /proc/mounts # List all currently mounted file systems with relevant details.

free -h # Show memory usage in a human-friendly format.

sudo dmidecode # Run as superuser to access and display hardware details directly from BIOS/firmware.

hdparm -i /dev/[device_name] # Display disk-specific information for the specified device.

hdparm -tT /dev/[device_name] # Run a read performance test on the specified device.

badblocks -s /dev/[device_name] # Check the specified device for any bad sectors, showing progress.

fsck /dev/[device_name] # Run a file system check and repair on an unmounted disk or partition.

5. Performance Monitoring and Statistics

top # Display a dynamic and real-time overview of the most resource-intensive processes running on the system, allowing process management.

htop # Enhanced, interactive process viewer with a more user-friendly interface compared to top, featuring color-coded metrics and easier navigation.

mpstat 1 # Continuously display processor-related statistics at 1-second intervals for monitoring CPU performance.

vmstat 1 # Report virtual memory statistics and system performance metrics at 1-second intervals for resource monitoring.

iostat 1 # Display CPU and input/output statistics every second to monitor device and system performance.

tail -100 /var/log/messages # Output the last 100 lines of the system log file for reviewing recent system activity (use /var/log/syslog for Debian-based systems).

tcpdump -i eth0 # Capture and display all network packets on the eth0 interface for traffic analysis.

tcpdump -i eth0 'port 80' # Monitor and display all HTTP traffic on the eth0 interface by filtering packets on port 80.

lsof # List all open files on the system, including files, network connections, and devices.

lsof -u user # Display all open files associated with a specific user, useful for monitoring user activity.

watch df -h # Run df -h repeatedly, displaying disk space usage with updates at regular intervals.

mpstat # Report detailed CPU usage statistics, showing per-processor data for comprehensive performance analysis.

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pidstat # Provide real-time statistics on currently running processes, including CPU and memory usage, for process monitoring.

6. Process Management

ps # List currently active processes running under the user's session.

ps -ef # Show a comprehensive list of all processes running on the system with full details.

ps -ef | grep processname # Search and display details of processes matching processname.

pstree # Display running processes in a hierarchical tree format to visualize parent-child relationships.

pmap # Show detailed memory map and usage for a specific process.

top # Display a dynamic and real-time list of all running processes, including their resource usage.

htop # An enhanced and interactive process viewer with a colorful interface, allowing easy process management.

kill [process_id] # Forcefully stop a running process by specifying its process ID (PID).

pkill [process_name] # Terminate processes by their name, useful for stopping multiple instances at once.

killall [label] # Kill all processes associated with a specific label or name.

pgrep [keyword] # Search for and display process IDs that match a given keyword.

pidof [process_name] # Show the PID of a specific running process.

bg # List and resume jobs that have been stopped or are running in the background.

fg # Bring the most recently suspended or backgrounded job to the foreground for interaction.

fg n # Bring the specified job number n to the foreground.

lsof # List open files associated with running processes, useful for identifying file usage and network connections.

trap "[commands]" [signal] # Execute specified commands when a given signal (e.g., termination) is caught in a script.

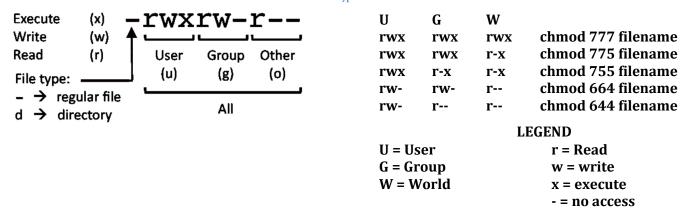
wait # Suspend execution in the terminal or a script until a specified background process completes.

nohup [command] & # Run a command in the background while ignoring hangup signals, ensuring it continues running after logout.

program & # Start a program and run it in the background, freeing up the terminal for other commands.

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PERMISSION EXAMPLE

chown Joe /path/to/file # Change the ownership of /path/to/file so that Joe becomes the file owner.
chgrp sales /path/to/file # Change the group ownership of /path/to/file to the group sales.
chmod 777 [file_name] # Assign read, write, and execute permissions to everyone for [file_name] (permissions set to rwxrwxrwx).

chmod 755 [file_name] # Grant full permissions (read, write, execute) to the owner, and read and execute permissions to the group and others (rwxr-xr-x).

chmod 766 [file_name] # Provide full permissions to the owner, and read and write permissions to the group and others (rwxrw-rw-).

chown [user_name] [file_name] # Change the ownership of [file_name] so that [user_name] is the new file owner. **chown [user_name]:[group_name] [file_name]** # Modify both the owner and group ownership of [file_name] to [user_name] and [group_name], respectively.

7. User Information and Management

id # Display the user ID (UID), group ID (GID), and groups associated with the current user.

last # Show a list of recent user login sessions, including timestamps and session durations.

who # Display a list of users currently logged into the system.

w # Present detailed information about users currently logged in and their ongoing activities.

groupadd test # Create a new group named "test" for managing user permissions.

useradd -c "Joe Snuffy" -m Joe # Create a new user account named "Joe" with the comment "Joe Snuffy" and generate a home directory for the user.

userdel Joe # Remove the user account named "Joe" from the system, deleting all associated user data.

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usermod -aG sales Joe # Append the user "Joe" to the "sales" group, granting him group permissions without affecting existing group memberships.

8. File and Directory Operations

cd .. # Navigate up one level in the directory tree, changing to the parent directory.

cd # Move directly to the user's \$HOME directory.

cd /etc # Change the current working directory to /etc.

cd ~ # Change to the \$HOME directory.

cd - # Switch back to the previous directory you were in.

cd [directory_path] # Change to a specified directory path.

alias goto='cd /etc/' # Create an alias goto that changes the current directory to /etc.

ls # List the files and directories in the current working directory.

ls -a # List all files and directories in the current directory, including hidden ones.

ls -l # Display the contents of the current directory in a detailed list format, showing permissions, ownership, and more.

ls -al # List all files and directories in the current directory with detailed information, including permissions, ownership, and timestamps.

pwd # Print the current working directory's full path.

dirs # Display the current directory stack, showing the list of remembered directories.

pwd # Display the full path of the current working directory.

mkdir directory # Create a new directory named "directory".

rm file # Delete a file from the system.

rm -**r directory** # Recursively remove a directory and all its contents.

rm -**f** file # Force deletion of a file without any confirmation prompt.

rm -**rf** directory # Forcefully and recursively delete a directory and its contents without confirmation.

cp file1 file2 # Copy the contents of file1 to a new file named file2.

cp -r source_directory destination # Copy the entire source_directory and its contents to destination. If destination exists, source_directory will be copied into it; otherwise, destination will be created with the contents of source_directory.

mv file1 file2 # Move or rename file1 to file2. If file2 is an existing directory, move file1 into it.

In -s /path/to/file linkname # Create a symbolic link named linkname that points to the specified file.

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touch file # Create an empty file or update the access and modification times of an existing file.

cat file # Display the contents of a file in the terminal.

less file # Open a file for viewing, with navigation options for moving up and down.

head file # Display the first 10 lines of a file by default.

tail file # Display the last 10 lines of a file by default.

tail -f file # Continuously display new lines added to a file in real-time.

cat source_file >> destination_file # Append the contents of source_file to destination_file.

more file_name # Display file content page by page, allowing navigation with keyboard commands.

nano file_name # Open or create a file with the nano text editor for quick editing.

vi file_name or vim file_name # Open or create a file with the vi or vim text editor for more advanced editing features.

gpg -c file_name # Encrypt a file using symmetric encryption.

gpg file_name.gpg # Decrypt an encrypted .gpg file.

wc -w file_name # Display the number of words, lines, and bytes in a file.

ls | xargs wc # Count the number of lines, words, and characters in each file within a directory.

cut -d [delimiter] file_name # Extract and display sections of a file separated by a specified delimiter.

[data] | cut -d [delimiter] # Process and display a specific section of piped data based on the delimiter.

shred -u file_name # Overwrite a file with random data to securely erase it, and then delete it.

diff first_file second_file # Compare two files and display their differences line by line.

source file_name # Execute the commands within a file in the current shell environment.

[command] | tee file_name >/dev/null # Save the output of a command to a file while discarding the terminal output.

9. File and Text Search Utilities

grep pattern file # Search for occurrences of pattern within file and display matching lines.

grep -r pattern directory # Recursively search for pattern in all files within directory. find /home/Joe -name 'prefix'* # Locate files in /home/Joe that start with the name prefix.

find /home -size +100M # Search for files larger than 100 MB within the /home directory.

whereis program # Show the paths to the binary, source, and manual page files for the specified program.

which program # Display the full path to the executable that would be run if program is executed, based on the current environment.

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find [path] -name [search_pattern] # Search for files and directories matching the specified search_pattern within the given path.

find [path] -size [+100M] # Locate files larger than 100 MB in the specified path.

grep [search_pattern] [file_name] # Search for a pattern in [file_name] and display lines containing matches.
grep -r [search_pattern] [directory_name] # Perform a recursive search for search_pattern across all files in
[directory_name].

locate [name] # Quickly find paths for files or directories containing the specified name.

which [command] # Show the path to the executable file for [command] as found in the \$PATH environment variable.

whereis [command] # Display the locations of the binary, source, and manual files for [command].
awk '[search_pattern] {print \$0}' [file_name] # Print lines in [file_name] that match the search_pattern
using awk.

sed 's/[old_text]/[new_text]/' [file_name] # Replace occurrences of old_text with new_text in [file_name].

10. File Transfers and Synchronization

scp file.txt server:/tmp # Securely copy file.txt from the local system to the /tmp folder on the remote server.

scp server:/var/www/*.html /tmp # Copy all .html files from the /var/www directory on server to the local
/tmp folder.

scp -r server:/var/www /tmp # Recursively copy all files and subdirectories from the /var/www directory on server to the local /tmp folder.

rsync -a /home /backups/ # Synchronize the entire /home directory to /backups/, preserving file attributes and structure.

rsync -avz /home server:/backups/ # Synchronize /home to the /backups/ directory on server, with compression enabled to speed up the transfer.

ftp host # Connect to an FTP server at host for transferring files interactively.

scp [source_file] [user]@[remote_host]:[destination_path] # Securely copy [source_file] from the local system
to [destination_path] on the remote host as [user].

rsync -a [source_directory] [user]@[remote_host]:[destination_directory] # Synchronize the contents of [source_directory] to [destination_directory] on the remote host while preserving permissions and timestamps. wget [link] # Download a file or webpage from an HTTP, HTTPS, or FTP server using the specified [link]. curl -O [link] # Download and save a file from a server to the local system using various supported protocols.

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ftp [remote_host] # Establish an FTP session with [remote_host] to transfer files interactively between local and remote systems.

sftp [user]@[remote_host] # Securely transfer files between local and remote systems using the SFTP protocol for encrypted sessions.

11. Disk Usage and Monitoring

df-h # Display the free and used disk space on all mounted filesystems in a human-readable format.

df-i # Show the number of free and used inodes on mounted filesystems, useful for tracking inode exhaustion.

fdisk -l # List all disk partitions, their sizes, and types across available drives.

du -ah # Display disk usage for all files and directories in a human-readable format, providing detailed space consumption.

du -sh # Summarize the total disk usage of the current directory in a human-readable format.

du -a directory # List the disk usage of all files within the specified directory, displaying their sizes.

findmnt # Enumerate and show detailed information about all currently mounted file systems, including mount points and options.

12. Networking and Connection Management

ip a # Display all network interfaces and their associated IP addresses for the system.

ip addr show dev eth0 # Show detailed information about the eth0 network interface, including its IP address and status.

ethtool eth0 # Retrieve and adjust network driver and hardware settings for the eth0 interface.

ping host # Send ICMP echo requests to host to check network connectivity and measure response time.

whois domain # Fetch WHOIS information for domain to show domain registration and ownership details.

dig domain # Query DNS information for domain, providing records like A, MX, and NS.

dig -x IP_ADDRESS # Perform a reverse DNS lookup to find the domain name associated with IP_ADDRESS.

host domain # Display the DNS IP address for domain and associated records.

hostname -i # Present the primary network address associated with the system's hostname.

hostname -I # Show all local IP addresses assigned to the system.

wget http://domain.com/file # Download a file from http://domain.com/file to the local system.

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netstat -nutlp # List all currently listening TCP and UDP ports along with their associated programs.

ifconfig # Display detailed information about all network interfaces on the system.

traceroute host # Trace the path that packets take to reach host, displaying each hop along the way.

tcpdump # Capture and analyze packets on the network, useful for troubleshooting and monitoring traffic.

ip addr show # Display IP addresses and information for all active network interfaces.

ip address add [IP_address] # Assign a specific IP_address to an interface, such as eth0.

ifconfig # Display network interface details, including IP addresses and status.

ping [remote_host] # Send ICMP echo requests to [remote_host] to test connectivity.

netstat -pnltu # Show active listening ports and their protocols with associated processes.

netstat -tuln # List all listening TCP and UDP ports and the processes using them.

whois [domain_name] # Display detailed registration and ownership information for [domain_name].

dig [domain_name] # Use the dig command to show detailed DNS information for [domain_name].

dig -x [domain_name] # Perform a reverse DNS lookup for the specified [domain_name].

dig -x [IP_address] # Conduct a reverse DNS lookup for the given [IP_address] to find the associated domain.

host [domain_name] # Perform a DNS lookup to retrieve the IP address for [domain_name].

hostname -I # Display all local IP addresses of the host system.

nslookup [domain_name] # Query DNS servers for information about [domain_name], such as its IP address.

13. SSH and Remote Access

ssh host # Connect to host as the current local user over SSH.

ssh user@host # Establish an SSH connection to host as the specified user.

ssh -p port user@host # Connect to host as user using a custom port for the SSH session.

ssh-keygen # Create a new pair of SSH keys (public and private) for secure authentication.

ssh-copy-id user@host # Copy your public SSH key to host to enable passwordless login for user.

ssh [user_name]@[host] # Connect securely to a remote host as user using the SSH protocol.

ssh [host] # Connect to a remote host over SSH using the default port 22.

ssh -p [port] [user_name]@[host] # Connect to host over SSH using the specified port as user.

ssh-keygen # Generate a public and private SSH key pair for secure access.

sudo service sshd start # Start the SSH server daemon to enable incoming SSH connections.

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scp [file_name] [user_name]@[host]:[remote_path] # Securely copy file_name from the local system to a remote system at remote_path using SSH.

sftp [user_name]@[host] # Initiate an interactive SFTP (Secure File Transfer Protocol) session to transfer files securely over SSH.

telnet [host] # Connect to host using the Telnet protocol on the default port 23 for unencrypted communication.

14. Archive and Compression Management

tar cf archive.tar directory # Generate tar named archive.tar containing directory.

tar xf archive.tar # Extract the contents from archive.tar.

tar czf archive.tar.gz directory # Generate a gzip compressed tar file name archive.tar.gz.

tar xzf archive.tar.gz # Extract a gzip compressed tar file.

tar cjf archive.tar.bz2 directory # Generate a tar file with bzip2 compression

tar xjf archive.tar.bz2 # Extract a bzip2 compressed tar file.

tar cf [archive.tar] [file/directory] # Archive an existing file or directory.

tar xf [archive.tar] # Extract an archived file.

tar czf [archive.tar.gz] # Generate a .gz compressed tar archive.

gzip [file_name] # Compress .gz files.

gunzip [file_name.gz] # Decompress .gz files.

bzip2 [file_name] # Compress .bz2 files.

bunzip2 [file_name.bz2] # Decompress .bz2 files.

15. Package Management Overview

yum search keyword # Search for a package by a specific keyword to find matching software in the repository for RHEL-based systems.

yum install package # Install a package by its name on RHEL-based systems, resolving and downloading dependencies automatically.

yum info package # Display a detailed description and summary information about a package, including its version and size, for RHEL-based systems.

rpm -i package.rpm # Install a package from a local .rpm file named package.rpm on RHEL-based systems.

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yum remove package # Uninstall or remove a package from the system on RHEL-based distributions, including all dependencies no longer needed.

yum update package # Update the specified package to its latest version for RHEL-based systems.

tar zxvf sourcecode.tar.gz # Extract the contents of the sourcecode.tar.gz compressed archive, creating the source code directory.

cd sourcecode # Change the current directory to the sourcecode directory.

./configure # Run the configuration script to check for system requirements and set up the build environment for the source code.

make # Compile the source code into executable binaries.

make install # Install the compiled program into the appropriate system directories.

apt-get update # Update the local package index to ensure the latest package information is available for Debian-based systems.

apt-get upgrade # Upgrade all currently installed packages to their newest available versions on Debian-based systems.

apt-get install package # Install a package by its name, ensuring dependencies are resolved, on Debian-based systems.

apt-remove package # Remove a package and its associated configuration files from the system on Debian-based distributions.

16. Packages Management (Debian/Ubuntu)

sudo apt-get install [package_name] # Install a package using the apt-get utility, resolving dependencies automatically for Debian-based systems.

sudo apt install [package_name] # Install a package using the more modern apt package manager, offering improved user interaction.

apt search [keyword] # Search for a package in the APT repositories that matches the specified keyword.

apt list # List all packages installed on the system or available in the repositories using APT.

apt show [package_name] # Display detailed information about a specific package, including its description, version, and dependencies.

sudo dpkg -i [package_name.deb] # Install a local .deb package file using the dpkg command.

sudo dpkg -l # List all packages installed on the system that were managed by dpkg, showing their names and versions.

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17. Packages Management (Red Hat, CentOS, Fedora)

sudo yum install [package_name] # Install a package using the YUM package manager, automatically resolving dependencies on RHEL-based systems.

yum search [keyword] # Search for packages in the YUM repositories that match the provided keyword.
yum list installed # Display a comprehensive list of all packages currently installed with YUM on the system.
yum info [package_name] # Show detailed information about a specific package, including its description,
version, and repository source.

sudo dnf install [package_name] # Install a package using the DNF package manager, a modern replacement for YUM with improved performance and dependency management.

sudo rpm -i [package_name.rpm] # Install a local .rpm package using the rpm command, which does not resolve dependencies automatically.

18. Security and Access Control

passwd # Change the password for the current user or specify a user to modify their password.

sudo -i # Switch to the root account and start a root login shell, applying root's environment variables.

sudo -s # Run the current shell with root privileges, without initiating a login shell.

sudo -l # Display a list of sudo privileges for the current user, showing allowed commands.

visudo # Safely edit the sudoers file to configure or modify user sudo permissions.

getenforce # Display the current mode of SELinux (e.g., Enforcing, Permissive, or Disabled).

sestatus # Show detailed information about the current state of SELinux, including mode and policy details.

setenforce 0 # Change the current SELinux mode to Permissive, allowing policy violations but logging them (does not persist after reboot).

setenforce 1 # Change the current SELinux mode to Enforcing, ensuring policy rules are enforced (does not persist after reboot).

SELINUX=enforcing # Configure SELinux to start in Enforcing mode on boot by setting this in the /etc/selinux/config file.

SELINUX=permissive # Configure SELinux to start in Permissive mode on boot, where policy violations are logged but not enforced.

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SELINUX=disabled # Configure SELinux to be completely disabled on boot by setting this in the /etc/selinux/config file.

19. System Logging and Variable Management

dmesg # Display kernel ring buffer messages, typically used for reviewing system boot and hardware-related logs. **journalctl** # View logs maintained by the systemd journal, including boot messages, application logs, and system events.

journalctl -u servicename # Display logs specific to a particular service or unit, making it easier to troubleshoot service issues.

Variables let "[variable_name]=[value]" # Assign an integer value to a variable, useful for arithmetic operations in bash.

export [variable_name] # Mark a variable to be available for child processes of the shell, making it an environment variable.

declare [variable-name]="[value]" # Declare and initialize a variable, optionally adding attributes like -i for integers.

set # Display all shell variables and functions currently defined in the session.

unset [variable_name] # Remove a shell or environment variable, effectively deleting it from the session.

echo \$[variable-name] # Print the value stored in the variable to the terminal.



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