

Some useful commands

Getting help

man

Display the manual page for the given command. (Another option is the man: kioslave in Konqueror.)

```
man ls
```

apropos

Search for manual pages containing the given term.

```
apropos apache
```

Basic filesystem usage

ls

List the contents of a directory.

```
ls -l
```

cd

Change current working directory (with no arguments, change to home directory).

```
cd /mnt
```

less

Display the given file (or stdin if no filename given).

```
ls -la | less
```

cat

Concatenate several files to stdout (also useful for printing out a single file).

```
cat /etc/fstab
```

mv

Move or rename a file or files.

rm

Delete a file or files.

```
rm test.o
```

ln

Create symbolic or hard links to a file.

```
ln -s ../files/test.html index.html
```

mc

Midnight Commander is a text-based file manager with built-in text editor (mcedit) and viewer, particularly useful when connecting via SSH.

Permissions

chmod

Change the permission bits ('mode') of a file or files.

```
chmod go+rx my_script
```

chown

Change the owner of a file or files.

chgrp

Change the group of a file. chown can also do this, in a slightly different way.

Filesystem

df

List disk usage on some or all filesystems.

```
df -h
```

du

Find size of all files under the given directory.

```
du -sh /bin
```

mount

Mount a filesystem. If the filesystem is listed in /etc/fstab then either the device or the mount point alone is sufficient, otherwise both must be given (along with any other options).

```
mount /media/cdrom
```

Package management

apt-get

One interface to Debian's powerful package manager.

```
apt-get update && apt-get upgrade
```

apt-cache

Query the database of installed and available packages.

```
apt-cache show apache2
```

dpkg-reconfigure

When some packages are installed, they will ask you for some options through a system called debconf. dpkg-reconfigure can be used to change these debconf settings for an installed package.

```
dpkg-reconfigure exim4
```

Miscellaneous

env

List all environment variables.