Advanced Shell Commands

find *directories expressions*	Find files like `-name` *name* or `-size +1000`, etc.
grep *search-string files*	Find search-string in files.
ln -s *file1 file2*	Create a symbolic link to a file.
su - [*username*]	Become another user, default is `root`.
sudo *command*	Execute a command as `root` as normal user, permissions are defined in `/etc/sudoers`.
command >*file*	Overwrite file with output of command.
command >>*file*	Append output of command to file.
cmd1 | *cmd2*	Use output of command 1 as input of command 2.
command <*file*	Use file as input for command.

Configuration

/etc/	All system configuration files are under directory `/etc/`.
nano *files*	Default text editor. If not present, try **emacs**, **vi**, **joe**.
webmin at https:// hostname:10000	System configuration via a powerful web interface. Access is defined in `/etc/webmin/miniserv.conf`.
CUPS at http:// hostname:631	Web interface to printer configuration.
dpkg-reconfigure console-common	Reconfigure keyboard, e.g. US, German.
dpkg-reconfigure locales	Reconfigure localisation of system, e.g. English, Chinese.
update-alternatives *options*	Manage command alternatives.
update-grub	After installing a new kernel.
make-kpkg --initrd --revision=2:my.1.0 --rootcmd fakeroot --uc --us kernel_image	Build a kernel packages from sources, if a customised kernel is really needed, needs `kernel-package`.
m-a a-i module kernel_image	Create and install third-party modules (nvidia, ...), needs `module-assistant`.

APT

apt-get update	Update packages listings from package repositories as listed in `/etc/apt/sources.list`. Run, if the contents of one of repositories, the file changed, or if unsure.
apt-cache search *search-string*	Search packages and descriptions for *search-string*.
apt-cache policy *package-names*	Show versions and priorities of available packages.
apt-cache show *package-names*	Show package information incl. description.
apt-cache showpkg *package-names*	Show package dependencies (needed packages).
apt-get install *package-names*	Install packages from repository with all dependencies.
apt-get upgrade	Install newest versions of all packages currently installed.
apt-get dist-upgrade	Like **apt-get upgrade**, but with advanced conflict resolution.
apt-get remove *package-names*	Remove packages with all needed packages.
apt-cache depends *package-names*	List all packages needed by the given.
apt-cache rdepends *package-names*	List all packages that need the given.
apt-file update	Update content listings from package repositories as listed in `/etc/apt/sources.list`, see **apt-get update**
apt-file search *file-name*	Search in which package a file is.
apt-file list *package-name*	List contents of a package.
auto-apt	Installs packages automatically if needed, can replace **apt-file**, needs `auto-apt`.
aptitude	Console interface to APT, needs `aptitude`.
synaptic	GUI interface to APT, needs `synaptic`.

Dpkg

dpkg -l [*package-names*]	List packages.
dpkg -I *package-file*	Show information about a package.
dpkg -c *package-file*	List contents of package file.
dpkg -S *filename*	Show which package a file belongs to.
dpkg -i *package-files*	Install package files.
deborphan	Show packages, on that no other packages depend (*orphans*), needs `deborphan`.
debsums	Audit check sums of installed packages, needs `debsums`.
dpkg-divert [options]*file*	Override a package's version of a file.
dpkg --compare-versions*v1* gt *v2* && echo yes	Compare version numbers.
dpkg-query -W --showformat=*format*	Query installed packages, format example: '${Package} ${Version} ${Installed-Size}\n'.
dpkg --get-selections > *file*	Write package selections to file.
dpkg --set-selections < *file*	Set package selections from file.

Daemons and System

/etc/init.d/*file* restart	Restart a service, system daemon.
/etc/init.d/*file* stop	Stop a service, system daemon.
/etc/init.d/*file* start	Start a service, system daemon.
halt, reboot, poweroff	Halts, reboots, shuts down system.
/var/log/	All log files are under this directory.
/etc/default/	Default values for many daemons and services.

The Network

/sbin/ifconfig	Configure network interfaces.
/etc/network/	Network configuration files, most relevant are `interfaces` and `options`.
ifup, ifdown [*device*]	Start, stop network interfaces according to files above.
ssh -X *user@host*	Login at other machine.
scp *files* *user@host:path*	Copy files to other machine (and vice versa).
catior *IOR*	View components of stringified CORBA IOR.
nameclt list [*context*]	List contexts and objects from CORBA Naming Service.

Web Server (Apache2)

/etc/apache2/	Configuration files.
/etc/apache2/ sites-enabled/ default	Defines default virtual host.
/etc/apache2/ mods-available/	Contains available modules files. To enable a module, create a symbolic link into /etc/apache2/mods-enabled/.

Database (PostgreSQL)

createdb	Create a new database.
dropdb	Remove a database.
createuser	Create a new database user.
dropuser	Remove a database user.
/etc/postgresql/ pg_hba.conf	Client access configuration.
ALTER USER name WITH PASSWORD 'password';	Change the password in the SQL console **psql**.

File and Print Server (Samba)

/etc/samba/smb. conf	Main configuration file.
smbclient	Browse SMB network resources, e.g. download, upload files.

Bugs

Tracking	Find out about existing and fixed bugs at `http://bugs.debian.org/`.
Package specific	See `http://bugs.debian.org/package-name/`. The pseudo-package `wnpp` is used to ask for packages not yet included.
reportbug	Reports a bug by e-mail. Or look for instructions at `http://www.debian.org/Bugs/Reporting`.

Installation

Installer	All information about the installer at `http://www.debian.org/devel/debian-installer/`.
boot: expert	E.g. to setting up the network w/o DHCP or using LILO instead of GRUB.
CD images	Download from `http://people.debian.org/cdimage/testing/`.

Debian GNU/Linux Reference Card
Version 0.7, 2004-04-18
`http://www.debian.org/`

Getting Help

man *command*	Read online help for command. Every command and many configuration files have manual pages, **man bash** for builtins.
command [--help, -h]	Brief help for most commands.
/usr/share/doc/ [*package-name*/]	Find all documentation here. An optional file `README.Debian` contains specialties.
Web documentation	Debian Reference, Installation Manual, FAQs, HOWTOs, and other documentation at `http://www.debian.org/doc/`.
Mailing lists	The Debian community is always helpful, look for the `users` mailing list first at `http://lists.debian.org/`.

Basic Shell Commands

cat *files*	Print files to screen.
cd *directory*	Change to directory.
cp *file1 file2*	Copy files and directories.
echo *string*	Echo string to screen.
gzip, bzip2 [-d]*files*	Compress, uncompress files.
less *files*	Show contents of files. Better than `more`.
ls [*files*]	List files.
mkdir *directory-names*	Create directories.
mv *file file*	Move, rename files.
rm *files*	Remove files.
rmdir *directories*	Remove empty directories.
tar [c][x][t][z][j]-f *archive-file*[*files*]	*C*reate, e*X*tract, list *T*able of archive file, *z*, *j* for `.gz`, `.bz2`.