

Windows → Linux: Command Reference

From “Ditch Windows – Embrace Linux”, Appendix A

The most common Windows commands (CMD) and their Ubuntu equivalents (Bash). The full reference including PowerShell is in Appendix A of the book.

Navigation & File Management

Task	Windows (CMD)	Ubuntu (Bash)
Change directory	cd folder	cd folder
Go to home directory	cd %USERPROFILE%	cd / cd ~
Show current directory	cd	pwd
List directory contents	dir	ls
Detailed listing (incl. hidden)	dir /a	ls -la
Create directory	mkdir folder	mkdir folder
Delete directory (with contents)	rmdir /s /q folder	rm -rf folder
Show file contents	type file.txt	cat file.txt
Read file page by page	–	less file.txt
Follow file live	–	tail -f file.txt
Copy file	copy source dest	cp source dest
Move / rename	move source dest	mv source dest
Delete file	del file.txt	rm file.txt
Create empty file	type nul > file	touch file.txt
Search for file	where file.txt	find . -name "file.txt"
Search text in files	findstr "pattern" file	grep "pattern" file
Search text recursively	findstr /s "x" *	grep -r "x" .

System & Processes

Task	Windows (CMD)	Ubuntu (Bash)
Full system info	systeminfo	uname -a / hostnamectl
OS version	winver	lsb_release -a
CPU info	wmic cpu	lscpu
RAM usage	Task Manager	free -h
Disks / drives	diskpart	lsblk
Disk usage	Explorer	df -h
List processes	tasklist	ps aux
Interactive process manager	Task Manager	htop
Kill process by name	taskkill /IM app.exe	pkill app
Kill process by PID	taskkill /PID 1234	kill 1234
Force kill process	taskkill /F /PID 1234	kill -9 1234
Find process PID	tasklist findstr app	pgrep app

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Networking

Task	Windows (CMD)	Ubuntu (Bash)
Show IP address	ipconfig	ip addr
Routing table	route print	ip route
DNS lookup	nslookup domain.com	dig domain.com
Ping	ping host	ping host
Traceroute	tracert host	traceroute host
Open ports	netstat -an	ss -tlnp
Firewall status	netsh advfirewall	sudo ufw status verbose
Connect via SSH	ssh user@host	ssh user@host

Package Management & Software

Task	Windows	Ubuntu (Bash)
Search for software	winget search	apt search package
Install software	winget install	sudo apt install package
Update software	winget upgrade	sudo apt upgrade
Install all updates	Windows Update	sudo apt update && sudo apt dist-upgrade
Uninstall software	winget uninstall	sudo apt remove package
Purge with config files	Add/Remove Programs	sudo apt purge package
List installed packages	winget list	apt list --installed
Remove orphaned packages	–	sudo apt autoremove

Users & Permissions

Task	Windows	Ubuntu (Bash)
Run as administrator	Right-click → Run as admin	sudo command
Open root shell	Admin CMD	sudo -i
Show current user	whoami	whoami
Create user	net user name pw /add	sudo adduser name
Add to group	net localgroup G U /add	sudo usermod -aG group user
Show file permissions	Properties → Security	ls -l file
Change permissions	Properties → Security	chmod 755 file
Change owner	takeown /f file	sudo chown user:group file
Change password	Settings → Accounts	passwd

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System Services & Logs

Task	Windows	Ubuntu (Bash)
Start service	net start service	sudo systemctl start service
Stop service	net stop service	sudo systemctl stop service
Restart service	Services.msc	sudo systemctl restart service
Show service status	Services.msc	systemctl status service
Enable at startup	Services.msc	sudo systemctl enable service
System logs (current boot)	Event Viewer	journalctl -b
Follow system logs live	–	journalctl -f
Reboot system	shutdown /r /t 0	sudo reboot
Shut down system	shutdown /s /t 0	sudo poweroff

Key Special Characters

Character	Meaning	Example
~	Home directory (/home/user)	cd ~/Documents
.	Current directory	./script.sh
..	Parent directory	cd ..
/	Directory separator (not \)	/etc/ssh/sshd_config
	Pipe: pass output onward	ps aux grep firefox
>	Write output to file (overwrite)	ls > list.txt
>>	Append output	echo x >> file.txt
*	Wildcard (any characters)	ls *.txt
&&	Next command only on success	apt update && apt upgrade
	Next command only on failure	mkdir t echo "Exists"
&	Run command in background	firefox &