



Debian GNU/Linux Reference Card

Version 5.0.5 2010-04-30

<http://www.debian.org/>

Dpkg

<code>dpkg --compare-versions v1 gt v2</code>	Compare version numbers, check with echo \$? .
<code>dpkg-query -W --showformat=f-format</code>	Query installed packages, format e.g. <code>'\${Package} \${Version} \${Installed-Size}\n'</code> .
<code>dpkg --get-selections > file</code>	Write package selections to file.
<code>dpkg --set-selections < file</code>	Set package selections from file.

The Network

<code>/etc/network/interfaces</code>	Network interface configuration.
<code>ifup, ifdown [device]</code>	Start, stop network interfaces according to files above.
<code>/sbin/ip</code>	Show and manipulate network interfaces and routing, needs <code>iproute</code> .
<code>ssh -X user@host</code>	Login at other machine.
<code>scp files user@host:path</code>	Copy files to other machine (and vice versa).

Web Server (Apache2)

<code>/etc/apache2/</code>	Configuration files.
<code>/etc/apache2/sites-available/</code>	Contains virtual hosts. To enable a virtual host, use a2ensite .
<code>/etc/apache2/mods-available/</code>	Contains available modules files. To enable a module, use a2enmod .

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Getting Help

<code>man page or man bash</code>	Read online help for every command and many configuration files.
<code>command [- -help, -h]</code>	Brief help for most commands.
<code>/usr/share/doc/package-name/</code>	Find all documentation here, optional file <code>README.Debian</code> contains specifics.
Web documentation	Reference, manuals, FAQs, HOWTOs, etc. at http://www.debian.org/doc/
Mailing lists at http://lists.debian.org/	The community is always helpful, search for users.
The Wiki at http://wiki.debian.org/	Contains all kind of useful information.

Installation

Installer	All information about it at http://www.debian.org/development/debian-installer/
CD images	Download from http://www.debian.org/distrib/
<code>boot: expert</code>	E.g. to set up the network w/o DHCP or using LILO instead of GRUB.

Bugs

Bug Tracking at http://bugs.debian.org/	All about existing and fixed bugs.
Package specific	See http://bugs.debian.org/package-name/ , use <code>wpp</code> to ask for new packages.
<code>reportbug</code>	Report a bug by e-mail.
Reporting	Instructions at http://www.debian.org/Bugs/Reporting

Configuration

/etc/	All system configuration files are under directory /etc/.
editor files	Default text editor. May be nano , emacs , vi , joe .
CUPS at http://-hostname:631	Browser interface to printing system.
dpkg-reconfigure package-name	Reconfigure a package, e.g. console-common (keyboard), locales (localisation).
update-alternatives options	Manage command alternatives.
update-grub	After changing /etc/default/grub.
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 (gspca, ...), needs module-assistant.

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.

Important Shell Commands

cat files	Print files to screen.
cd directory	Change to directory.
cp files dest	Copy files and directories.
echo string	Echo string to screen.
gzip, bzip2 [-d] files	Compress, uncompress files.

Important Shell Commands

pager files	Show contents of files.
ls [files]	List files.
mkdir directory-names	Create directories.
mv file1 file2	Move, rename files.
rm files	Remove files.
rmdir dirs	Remove empty directories.
tar [c][x][t][z][j] -f file.tar [files]	Create, eXtract, list Table of archive file, z, j for .gz, .bz2.
find directories expressions	Find files like -name name or -size +1000, etc.
grep search-string files	Find search-string in files.
kill [-9] number	Send signal to process (e.g. terminate it).
ln -s file link	Create a symbolic link to a file.
ps [options]	Show current processes.
su - [username]	Become another user, e.g. root.
sudo command	Execute a command as root as normal user, see /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.

APT

apt-get update	Update packages listings from package repositories as listed in /etc/apt/sources.list. Required whenever that file or the contents of the repositories change.
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

apt-cache showpkg package-names	Show package dependencies (needed packages).
apt-get install package-names	Install packages from repositories 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-get autoremove	Remove packages that no other packages depend on.
apt-cache depends package-names	List all packages needed by the one given.
apt-cache rdepends package-names	List all packages that need the one given.
apt-file update	Update content listings from package repositories, see apt-get update
apt-file search file-name	Search packages for file.
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 [names]	List packages.
dpkg -I pkg.deb	Show package information.
dpkg -c pkg.deb	List contents of package file.
dpkg -S filename	Show which package a file belongs to.
dpkg -i pkg.deb	Install package files.
debsums	Audit check sums of installed packages, needs debsums .
dpkg-divert [options] file	Override a package's version of a file.