

Kali Linux Commands List (2025)

A complete Kali Linux commands list from basic to advanced. You'll find useful commands from file management to cybersecurity tools.

Basic Kali Linux Commands

Command	Usage
pwd	Shows current folder
ls	Shows files and folders
cd	Change directory (folder)
cd ..	Go back one folder
mkdir folder	Make a new folder
touch file.txt	Make a new file
rm file.txt	Delete a file
rm -r folder	Delete a folder
clear	Clears the screen
exit	Close the terminal

File and Folder Commands

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Command	Usage
mv file1 file2	Rename or move file
cp file1 file2	Copy a file
cp -r folder1 folder2	Copy a folder
cat file.txt	Show file content
nano file.txt	Open file in editor
vi file.txt	Open file in vi editor
find / -name file	Search for a file
locate filename	Fast file search
file filename	Shows file type
stat file.txt	Shows file info

System Info Commands

Command	Usage
uname -a	System info
lsb_release -a	OS details
hostname	Computer name
whoami	Your username
id	User ID info
uptime	System running time

date	Shows date and time
cal	Shows calendar
free -h	RAM usage
df -h	Disk usage

Network Commands

Command	Usage
ifconfig	Network details
ip a	Shows IP info
ping google.com	Test internet connection
netstat -tuln	Shows ports in use
traceroute website.com	Shows route to website
nslookup website.com	DNS lookup
dig website.com	Advanced DNS lookup
nmap IP	Scan open ports
whois domain.com	Domain details
curl website.com	Get website content

User Management Commands

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Command	Usage
adduser name	Add a new user
passwd name	Change user password
deluser name	Delete user
usermod -aG group name	Add user to group
su name	Switch to user
sudo command	Run command as admin
groups	Show groups
id username	Show user ID info
who	Show logged in users
last	Show login history

Package Management (apt)

Command	Usage
apt update	Update software list
apt upgrade	Upgrade all packages
apt install name	Install package
apt remove name	Remove package
apt purge name	Remove with config
apt autoremove	Remove unused packages

apt list	List all packages
apt search name	Search a package
dpkg -i package.deb	Install .deb file
dpkg -l	List installed packages

⚙️ Process Management

Command	Usage
ps	Show running processes
ps aux	Detailed process list
top	Real-time usage info
htop	Fancy version of top
kill PID	Kill process by PID
killall name	Kill by name
nice -n 10 command	Start with priority
bg	Send job to background
fg	Bring job to front
jobs	Show running jobs

File Permissions

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Command	Usage
chmod 777 file	Give full permission
chmod +x file	Make file executable
chown user file	Change file owner
chgrp group file	Change group owner
umask	Show default permissions

📦 Archive & Compression

Command	Usage
tar -cvf file.tar folder	Make tar archive
tar -xvf file.tar	Extract tar file
zip file.zip folder	Make zip
unzip file.zip	Extract zip
gzip file	Compress file
gunzip file.gz	Uncompress file

Ethical Hacking Tools (Pre-installed)

Tool	Usage
nmap	Network scanner

sqlmap	SQL injection testing
hydra	Password cracking
aircrack-ng	Wi-Fi hacking
burpsuite	Web app security testing
metasploit	Exploitation framework
wireshark	Packet sniffer
john	Password cracker
nikto	Web scanner

✂ Useful Shortcuts & Tips

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Shortcut/Command	Usage
!!	Repeat last command
!abc	Run last command starting with abc
Ctrl+C	Stop current command
Ctrl+Z	Pause command
Ctrl+D	Logout
Tab	Auto-complete command
↑ / ↓ arrows	Command history
history	Show all used commands
alias	Create a shortcut command
unalias	Remove shortcut

Extra Cool Commands

Command	Usage
neofetch	Show system info in cool style
figlet Hello	Print big ASCII text
lolcat file.txt	Show rainbow-colored text
cowsay Hello	Cow says your message
watch date	Repeats a command every 2 seconds