



Debian GNU/Linux Reference Card

Version 5.0.1 2008-08-01

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

Dpkg	
<code>dpkg-query -W ---showformat=<i>format</i></code>	Query installed packages, format e.g. <code>'\${Package} \${Version} \${Installed-Size}\n'</code> .
<code>dpkg --get-selections > <i>file</i></code>	Write package selections to file.
<code>dpkg --set-selections < <i>file</i></code>	Set package selections from file.

The Network

<code>/etc/network/interfaces</code>	Network interface configuration.
<code>ifup, ifdown [<i>device</i>]</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 <i>user@host</i></code>	Login at other machine.
<code>scp <i>files user@host:path</i></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 <i>page</i> or man bash</code>	Read online help for every command and many configuration files.
<code><i>command</i> [--help, -h]</code>	Brief help for most commands.
<code>/usr/share/doc/<i>package-name</i>/</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/devel/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

<code>/etc/</code>	All system configuration files are under directory <code>/etc/</code> .
<code>editor files</code>	Default text editor. May be nano, emacs, vi, joe .
CUPS at <code>http://hostname:631</code>	Browser interface to printing system.
<code>dpkg-reconfigure package-name</code>	Reconfigure a package, e.g. console-common (keyboard), locales (localisation).
<code>update-alternatives options</code>	Manage command alternatives.
<code>update-grub</code>	After changing <code>/boot/grub/menu.lst</code> .
<code>make-kpkg --initrd --revision=2:my.1.0 --rootcmd fakeroot --uc --us kernel_image</code>	Build a kernel packages from sources, if a customised kernel is really needed, needs <code>kernel-package</code> .
<code>m-a a-i module kernel_image</code>	Create and install third-party modules (gspca, ...), needs <code>module-assistant</code> .

Daemons and System

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

Important Shell Commands

<code>cat files</code>	Print files to screen.
<code>cd directory</code>	Change to directory.
<code>cp files dest</code>	Copy files and directories.
<code>echo string</code>	Echo string to screen.
<code>gzip, bzip2 [-d] files</code>	Compress, uncompress files.
<code>pager files</code>	Show contents of files.

Important Shell Commands

<code>ls [files]</code>	List files.
<code>mkdir directory-names</code>	Create directories.
<code>mv file1 file2</code>	Move, rename files.
<code>rm files</code>	Remove files.
<code>rmdir dirs</code>	Remove empty directories.
<code>tar [c][x][t][z][j] -f file.tar [files]</code>	Create, eXtract, list Table of archive file, <i>z, j</i> for <i>.gz, .bz2</i> .
<code>find directories expressions</code>	Find files like <code>-name name</code> or <code>-size +1000</code> , etc.
<code>grep search-string files</code>	Find search-string in files.
<code>kill [-9] number</code>	Send signal to process (e.g. terminate it).
<code>ln -s file link</code>	Create a symbolic link to a file.
<code>ps [options]</code>	Show current processes.
<code>su - [username]</code>	Become another user, e.g. <code>root</code> .
<code>sudo command</code>	Execute a command as <code>root</code> as normal user, see <code>/etc/sudoers</code>
<code>command > file</code>	Overwrite file with output of command.
<code>command >> file</code>	Append output of command to file.
<code>cmd1 cmd2</code>	Use output of command 1 as input of command 2.
<code>command < file</code>	Use file as input for command.

APT

<code>apt-get update</code>	Update packages listings from package repositories as listed in <code>/etc/apt/sources.list</code> . Required whenever that file or the contents of the repositories change.
<code>apt-cache search search-string</code>	Search packages and descriptions for <code>search-string</code> .
<code>apt-cache policy package-names</code>	Show versions and priorities of available packages.
<code>apt-cache show package-names</code>	Show package information incl. description.
<code>apt-cache showpkg package-names</code>	Show package dependencies (needed packages).

APT

<code>apt-get install package-names</code>	Install packages from repositories with all dependencies.
<code>apt-get upgrade</code>	Install newest versions of all packages currently installed.
<code>apt-get dist-upgrade</code>	Like apt-get upgrade , but with advanced conflict resolution.
<code>apt-get remove package-names</code>	Remove packages with all needed packages.
<code>apt-get autoremove</code>	Remove packages that no other packages depend on.
<code>apt-cache depends package-names</code>	List all packages needed by the one given.
<code>apt-cache rdepends package-names</code>	List all packages that need the one given.
<code>apt-file update</code>	Update content listings from package repositories, see apt-get update
<code>apt-file search file-name</code>	Search packages for file.
<code>apt-file list package-name</code>	List contents of a package.
<code>auto-apt</code>	Installs packages automatically if needed, can replace apt-file , needs <code>auto-apt</code> .
<code>aptitude</code>	Console interface to APT, needs <code>aptitude</code> .
<code>synaptic</code>	GUI interface to APT, needs <code>synaptic</code> .

Dpkg

<code>dpkg -l [names]</code>	List packages.
<code>dpkg -l pkg.deb</code>	Show package information.
<code>dpkg -c pkg.deb</code>	List contents of package file.
<code>dpkg -S filename</code>	Show which package a file belongs to.
<code>dpkg -i pkg.deb</code>	Install package files.
<code>debsums</code>	Audit check sums of installed packages, needs <code>debsums</code> .
<code>dpkg-divert [options] file</code>	Override a package's version of a file.
<code>dpkg --compare-versions v1 gt v2</code>	Compare version numbers, check with echo \$? .