

Linux_Help_Commands

help *command* (for inbuilt commands).

'**help**' without a *command* will display a bit about all the inbuilt commands.

'**compgen -b**' just gives a straight list of all the builtin commands.

man *command* **man** is the system's manual pager. (provides information for a command).

'man man' provides the manual page for man

info *command* read documentation in emacs Info format.(gives detailed information for a command)

'info info' provides the information page for info

('info' is not recommended for beginners)

apropos *command* or **man -k** *command* searches the manual page names and descriptions.

whatis *command* displays the manual page description.

whereis *command* locates source/binary and manuals sections.

which *command* searches PATH for required executable file(s).

Copy, paste & run this little script in your terminal.

```
echo --; whatis ls; echo --; whereis ls; echo --; which ls; echo --;
```

--help *option* gives brief description of each option, (doesn't work with all commands).

--usage *option* similar to **--help** *option* (doesn't work with all *commands*).

Document Processing Systems. **man** is produced by **troff** and uses a builtin **less** to navigate
info is produced and navigated by **emacs**

*****Caution***** – some commands may have two versions, one a built-in and one external e.g. **echo**;
in this case if you want to use the external command, use its full path name e.g. **/bin/echo**

man sections

man is divided into the following sections

- 1 Executable programs or shell commands
- 2 System calls (functions provided by the kernel)
- 3 Library calls (functions within program libraries)
- 4 Special files (usually found in /dev)
- 5 File formats and conventions eg /etc/passwd
- 6 Games
- 7 Miscellaneous (including macro packages and conventions), e.g. man(7), groff(7)
- 8 System administration commands (usually only for root)
- 9 Kernel routines [Non standard]

Command completion 'tab tab'

Run the most recent command as Root – **sudo !!**

Clear a terminal screen – **Ctrl-l**

The info pages for GNU programs are available on at: <http://www.gnu.org/manual/manual.html>

Command line Reference <http://ss64.com/index.html>