Top 50 Linux commands cheat sheet

System information and monitoring

1. **uname:** Displays system information (kernel, OS, etc.).
2. **uptime:** Provides information on the system's uptime and load averages.
3. **top:** Shows live system processes and their resource consumption.
4. **htop:** An interactive version of the top command, offering an enhanced process viewer.
5. **df:** Displays disk space usage statistics.
6. **du:** Shows disk usage details for files and directories.
7. **free:** Shows memory usage (RAM and swap).
8. **vmstat:** Reports system performance metrics (CPU, memory, IO).
9. **iostat:** Displays CPU, device, and network performance statistics.
10. **who:** Lists logged-in users.
11. **w:** Displays who is logged in and their current actions.

Networking

12. **ping:** Checks connectivity to a host.
13. **wget:** Retrieves files from the internet via HTTP, HTTPS, or FTP protocols.
14. **curl:** Transfers data to and from a server using various protocols, including HTTP, FTP, and more.
15. **ifconfig:** Displays and configures network interfaces (deprecated, replaced by the ip command).
16. **iftop:** Monitors real-time bandwidth usage across network interfaces.
17. **nmap:** Scans networks to detect open ports, services, and network devices.
18. **tcpdump:** Captures and analyzes network packets for troubleshooting and security monitoring.
19. **nslookup:** Queries DNS to resolve domain names into IP addresses.
20. **ip:** Configures and manages network interfaces and routing tables.
21. **netstat:** Shows network connections and listening ports.

File and directory management

22. **ls:** Lists all files and directories in the current directory.
23. **pwd:** Displays the path of the current directory.
24. **cd:** Changes the current directory to the specified one.
25. **mkdir:** Creates new directories.
26. **rmdir:** Removes empty directories.
27. **touch:** Creates empty files or updates the access and modification timestamps of existing files.
28. **chmod:** Modifies file permissions to control access.
29. **cp:** Copies files and directories to another location.
30. **mv:** Moves or renames files and directories.
31. **rm:** Deletes files or directories.
32. **find:** Searches for files based on specific criteria.
33. **locate:** Quickly locates files using a pre-built database.
34. **cat:** Displays the contents of a file.
35. **less:** Views file content one page at a time.
36. **more:** Similar to less but with fewer features.
37. **head:** Shows the first few lines of a file.
38. **tail:** Displays the last few lines of a file.
39. **sort:** Organizes the content of a file in a specific order.
40. **uniq:** Removes consecutive duplicate lines from a file.

User management

41. **whoami:** Displays the username of the currently logged-in user.
42. **id:** Shows the user and group IDs for the current user.
43. **passwd:** Changes the password for a specified user.
44. **adduser:** Adds a new user to the system.
45. **deluser:** Removes a user from the system.
46. **usermod:** Modifies properties of an existing user account.
47. **groups:** Lists all the groups a user belongs to.
48. **sudo:** Executes commands with elevated privileges (superuser).
49. **su:** Switches to another user account, typically root. Displays the current user.
50. **last:** Displays login history.