



# Linux

Linux Terminal – Fun Commands  
Dan Richter  
07 Sep 2020

Ok, so you're starting to get a feel for the terminal. If you've gotten all of the previous commands figured out, you are on your way to becoming a natural. :)

Let's take a few minutes and look at some of the fun things you can do from the Linux terminal.

Remember back to a time where we all were running some version of DOS? Everything we did was from the command prompt. Sometimes a simple command like 'dir' would come out as 'idr' or 'dri', and you'd see the familiar 'Bad command or filename' message. Well, in Linux, the similar command for a listing of files in a directory is 'ls'. The same problem exists, where you would end up typing 'sl', and see the 'bash: sl: command not found' message. Well, there's a fun way to remedy this. Install a small program called 'sl', and you'll find yourself typing 'sl' on purpose. :)

sl

This command, will give you an ASCII visualization of a steam train rolling across your screen. Fun for those times your fingers work faster than your mind.

figlet

This command will echo whatever you type into the console, in a larger ASCII font.



```
[dan@dan-home ~]$ cal
  October 2020
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
                1  2  3
 4  5  6  7  8  9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

[dan@dan-home ~]$ █
```

fortune

This may or may not come pre-installed on your system. If you have it, it will display random fortunes when you type it in.

cowsay

This probably isn't pre-installed, but can be retrieved very easily from the repositories. It will display what you type in as a thought bubble above a cow. It can be used with fortune by piping the command. I mentioned this earlier, and will get more in depth later, but for now, if you type in 'fortune | cowsay', it will take the output of the first command, in this case fortune, and send it to the next, here it is cowsay. You would end up with the cow on the screen with the fortune in the thought bubble.

```
-----
/ You are confused; but this is your \
\ normal state.                       /
-----
 \  ^__^
 \ (oo)\_______
  (__)\       )\/\
   ||----w |
   ||     ||
```

cmatrix

This one will need to be installed, and we'll get to that in the near future. With this installed, you can type in 'cmatrix', and the screen will look like the matrix, with the changing green characters falling from the top of the screen.

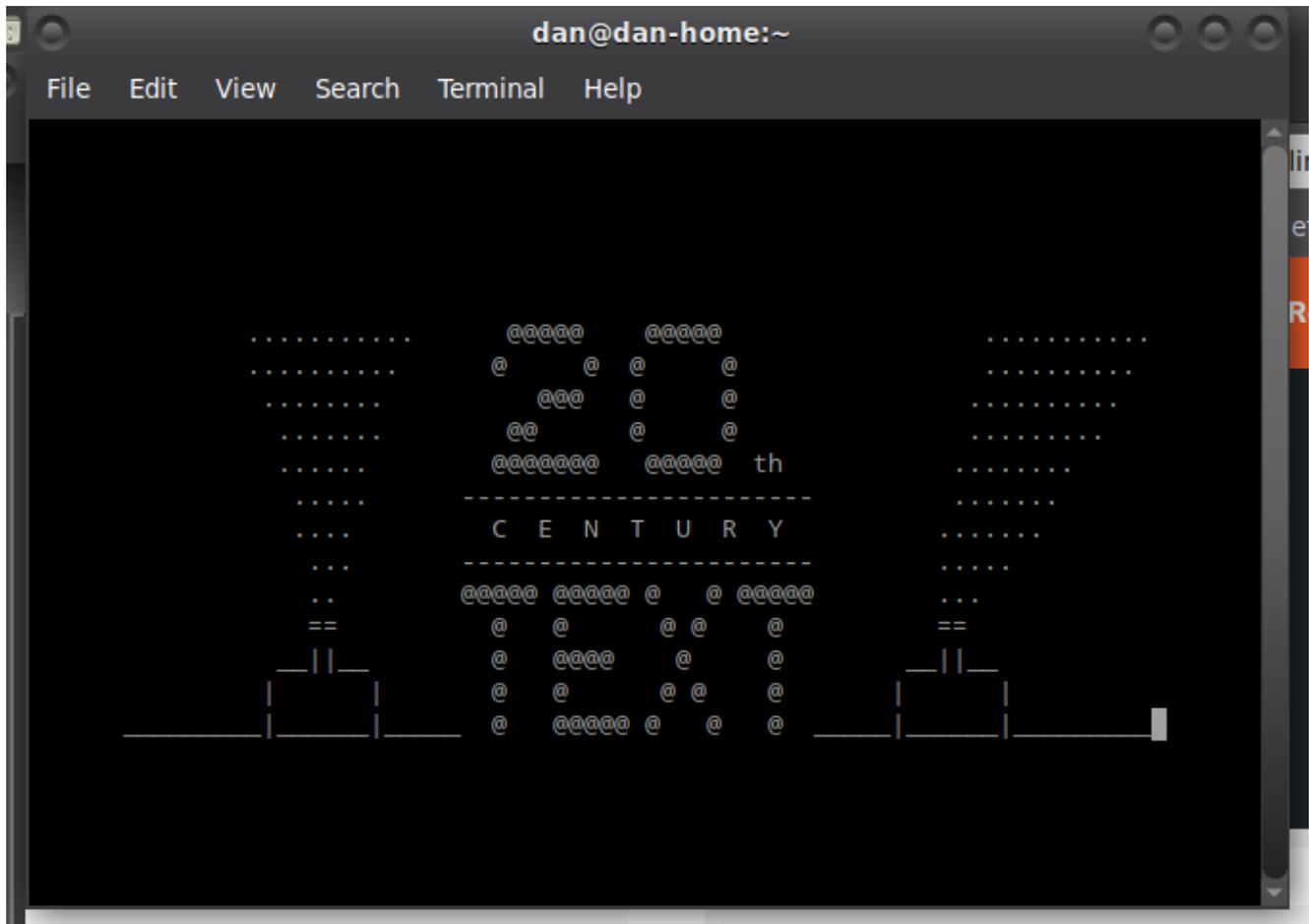
```
dan@dan-home:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
B Z ( C F J [ a 1 4 ` q ?
: [ h 1 5 + 1 s C j
S > . " p > = 6 Q N r d
i W : g y T 1 9 Q n C ! X y h J Q
D # Z y T 1 9 Q n C ! X y h J Q
H Z y T 1 9 Q n C ! X y h J Q
V . T 1 9 Q n C ! X y h J Q
u 7 H c [ 0 w r t p - a L k
+ 5 7 e Y d D 1 ? ` s . # E
2 ! u 1 / 2 u ] ! - s ] # E
0 a \ f m q s b " ( $ E 9 6 R
f s ? n w E S % 1 ' C ? = 7 C
Y 7 J N L k 4 f " R w / f P * D
a _ ( Z ( , f y Q e ? x _ 2 .
z - y P j < G ? , c ^ Z p 6 a w z
a K A d [ A o n 2 l 9 4 ) ; ] H #
$ m 4 L _ _ = 4 : b ? a C y ( - l
N n C g K N u = " w 6 z 9 n s L f 4 ? ) / @ 6
: " e ` b I q U m < 0 ] - Z C n Q 7 m \ k S s j
b X k E b ] - b j ] 6 0 - # d c 6 W m s & w ,
: y 3 < B \ O R O Z d @ ` C y m o F @ & i L
2 ; K 1 n \ t @ ) K c # [ 4 6 1 1 : 2 T ] \ x
u : 1 A C 1 Y B G U t o n z F 3 A I L T 0 J
```

hollywood

This one will also need to be installed, but it will amaze your friends. Once installed, type in 'hollywood', and you will see how Hollywood portrays a computer hacker. If you have speakers on your computer, you may want to turn the volume down, as it does get a bit loud. :)

telnet towel.blinkenlights.nl

If you type this in from the terminal, your system will actually telnet to a system that will display at least part of the Star Wars movie, all in ascii text. It's worth watching, as there was a lot of time put into creating it.



While the following are not programs that can be installed, they are still kinda fun. :)

world

```
bash: world: not found
```

touch girls\ boo\*\*

```
touch: cannot touch 'girls boo**': Permission denied
```

nice man woman

```
No manual entry for woman
```

^How did the sex change operation go?^

```
bash: :s^How did the sex change operation go?^ : substitution failed
```

%blow

```
bash: fg: %blow: no such job
```

make love

make: \*\*\* No rule to make target 'love'. Stop.

[whereis my brain?

Sh: 2: [: missing ]

man: why did you get a divorce?

Too many arguments.

!:say, what is saccharine?

Bad substitute.

/srv\$ \(-

bash: (-: command not found

These may or may not work with your distribution of Linux. Most of them did not have the same results when I tried it here in Manjaro, but have worked in the past on different systems.