65 Linux Commands Interview Questions to Ask Candidates

Questions

1. What does the 'cd' command do in Linux?
2. How would you check the available disk space on a Linux system?
3. What is the purpose of the 'chmod' command?
4. How do you view the contents of a file in Linux?
5. Explain how you would find a specific string in a file.
6. How do you list all the files in a directory, including hidden files?
7. What is the purpose of the 'ps' command?
8. How do you check the current system uptime in Linux?
9. How would you create a new user account in Linux?
10. Explain the difference between relative and absolute paths.
11. What command would you use to change file ownership?
12. How can you schedule a task to run automatically at a specific time?
13. Describe how you would compress and decompress files in Linux.
14. What's the purpose of the 'grep' command and how would you use it?
15. How do you check and manage running processes in Linux?
16. Explain how to set up a basic firewall using iptables.
17. What command would you use to check system resource usage?
18. How do you create and manage symbolic links?
19. Describe the process of mounting and unmounting file systems.
20. What's the difference between 'sudo' and 'su' commands?
21. How would you search for files larger than a specific size?
22. Explain how to redirect output to a file and append to an existing file.
23. What command would you use to view real-time log entries?
24. How do you check and modify file permissions recursively?
25. Describe how to use the 'find' command to locate files.
26. What's the purpose of the '/etc/fstab' file and how would you edit it?
27. How can you check and manage available swap space?
28. Explain how to use 'tar' for backing up and restoring files.
29. How would you monitor real-time system performance in Linux?
30. Explain how you would manage background and foreground processes in Linux.
31. How would you manage software packages on a Linux system?
32. Describe how you would analyze and troubleshoot network connectivity issues in Linux.
33. How do you manage user permissions for files and directories in Linux?
34. What steps would you take to secure a Linux server?
35. Explain how you would handle disk management and partitioning in Linux.
36. How do you automate repetitive tasks in Linux?
37. What strategies would you use for effective log management in Linux?
38. How would you check for and fix filesystem errors in Linux?
39. How would you write a shell script to find and delete all files older than 30 days in a specific directory?
40. Explain the difference between $@ and $* in shell scripting.
41. Write a one-line command to replace all occurrences of 'foo' with 'bar' in all .txt files in the current directory and its subdirectories.
42. How would you create a shell script that takes a filename as an argument and creates a backup of that file?
43. Explain the purpose of the 'set -e' command in a shell script.
44. Write a shell function that checks if a given number is prime.
45. How would you use a 'for' loop to rename all .jpg files in a directory to have a .png extension?
46. Explain the difference between single quotes and double quotes in shell scripting.
47. Write a shell script that counts the number of lines in each file in a directory and outputs the results sorted by line count.
48. How would you use 'sed' to extract all email addresses from a log file?
49. Explain the purpose of the 'shift' command in shell scripting.
50. Write a shell script that monitors system load and sends an alert if it exceeds a certain threshold.
51. How would you move a file from one directory to another in Linux?
52. How do you copy a directory and its contents in Linux?
53. How would you delete a file in Linux?
54. How do you create a new directory in Linux?
55. How do you display the size of a directory and its contents in Linux?
56. How would you change the access permissions of a file in Linux?
57. How do you display the last few lines of a file in Linux?
58. How would you find files that were modified recently in Linux?
59. How would you troubleshoot a Linux system that has suddenly become unresponsive?
60. Imagine you need to delete a user account immediately due to a security threat. What steps would you take?
61. You notice that a server is running out of disk space. How would you approach this issue?
62. A critical service has crashed on a server. What steps do you take to troubleshoot and resolve the issue?
63. How do you handle a situation where a Linux server's network connectivity is down?
64. What steps would you take to secure a newly deployed Linux server?