

NaN Linux commands interview questions for hiring managers

Questions

1. What does the `pwd` command do, and why is it useful?
2. Can you explain what a directory is in Linux, and how it's different from a file?
3. If you're lost in the terminal, what command can you use to find your way back home, metaphorically speaking?
4. What does the `ls` command show you, and how can you see hidden files with it?
5. How would you create a new folder named 'MyStuff' using the command line?
6. If you accidentally create an empty file, what command would you use to remove it?
7. What command lets you see the contents of a text file directly in the terminal?
8. Imagine you want to copy a file. What command do you use, and what two things do you need to tell the command?
9. How can you move a file from one folder to another using the command line?
10. What's the difference between the `>` and `>>` operators when redirecting output?
11. How can you display the manual page for the 'ls' command?
12. What is the purpose of the 'sudo' command, and when should you use it?
13. How do you change the permissions of a file to make it executable?
14. What does the command `echo 'Hello, World!'` do?
15. Explain what a pipe (`|`) does in the command line.
16. How do you search for a specific word inside a file using the command line?
17. What command shows you a list of currently running processes?
18. How can you terminate a process if you know its process ID (PID)?
19. What is the purpose of the 'tar' command, and how is it used for archiving files?
20. How can you extract files from a `.tar.gz` archive?
21. What command displays disk space usage?
22. How would you find all files in a directory (and its subdirectories) that end with `.txt`?
23. Explain the difference between relative and absolute paths.
24. What is the purpose of the `chmod` command?
25. How do you display the last 10 lines of a file using the command line?
26. What does the `pwd` command do? Can you explain it like I'm five?
27. If you type `ls`, what happens? What kind of things do you see?
28. What's the difference between `ls` and `ls -l`? What extra information do you get?
29. How would you make a new folder called 'my_stuff'?
30. How do you go *into* the 'my_stuff' folder you just made?
31. You're lost in the terminal! How do you go back to your 'home' folder?
32. How can you create an empty file called 'notes.txt'?
33. What does the command `cat notes.txt` do?
34. If you have a file called 'secrets.txt', how do you see what's inside?
35. Someone told you to use 'sudo'. What does that scary word mean?
36. How do you copy a file named 'document.txt' to a new file named 'copy_of_document.txt'?
37. What command would you use to remove a file named 'old_file.txt'?
38. How would you find all files ending with `.txt` in your current directory?
39. Explain what a 'directory' is, in Linux terms.
40. How can you see the last 10 lines of a big file called 'log.txt'?
41. If you accidentally type a command wrong, how can you fix it without retyping the whole thing?
42. What does the command `man ls` do? Why is it helpful?
43. How would you rename a file called 'report.old' to 'report.new'?
44. What is the difference between a relative and an absolute path?
45. If you need help with a command, what's the first thing you should try?
46. How can you find files modified in the last 24 hours, but only those larger than 1MB?
47. Explain how to use `awk` to print specific columns from a file, separated by a custom delimiter.
48. Describe a scenario where you'd use `xargs` and explain how it works with a practical example.
49. How do you archive and compress a directory while excluding specific subdirectories or file types?
50. Explain how to redirect standard output and standard error separately to different files.
51. How do you monitor the real-time disk usage of a specific directory?
52. Describe how to use `sed` to replace multiple different patterns in a file with a single command.
53. Explain how to find processes consuming the most memory and display them sorted by memory usage.
54. How can you schedule a command to run every 15 minutes using `cron`, and what are some potential pitfalls?
55. Explain how to use `rsync` to synchronize two directories, ensuring only changed files are copied.
56. How can you display the last 10 lines of a file, but only if the file exists?
57. Explain how to use `cut` to extract data based on character position, and when it is more appropriate than `awk`.
58. How can you use `watch` to monitor the output of a command and highlight changes?
59. Describe how to find all files in a directory that are owned by a specific user and group.
60. Explain how to use `netstat` or `ss` to identify which process is listening on a specific port.
61. How would you count the number of lines in all `.txt` files within a directory and its subdirectories?
62. Explain the difference between hard links and symbolic links, and when you might use each.
63. How can you use `grep` to find lines that contain either 'foo' or 'bar' but not both?
64. Explain how to create a simple shell script that takes command-line arguments and uses them.
65. How do you find the largest files on the entire system, excluding certain mount points like `/proc` and `/sys`?
66. How would you diagnose and resolve a situation where a critical system service is consuming excessive CPU resources?
67. Describe your approach to troubleshooting network connectivity issues on a Linux server, considering various tools and techniques.
68. Explain how you would implement a robust backup and recovery strategy for a Linux-based database server.
69. Walk me through the steps you would take to harden a Linux server against common security threats and vulnerabilities.
70. How do you optimize the performance of a Linux server running a high-traffic web application?
71. Describe your experience with containerization technologies like Docker and Kubernetes in a Linux environment.
72. Explain how you would automate the deployment and configuration of Linux servers using tools like Ansible or Puppet.
73. How do you monitor the health and performance of a Linux system and proactively identify potential issues?
74. Describe a time when you had to debug a complex performance issue on a Linux server. What tools and techniques did you use?
75. Explain how you would manage and troubleshoot user authentication and authorization in a Linux environment.
76. How would you go about auditing the security of a Linux system to identify potential vulnerabilities?
77. Describe your experience with scripting languages like Bash or Python for automating tasks on Linux systems.
78. Explain how you would implement and manage a firewall on a Linux server to protect it from unauthorized access.
79. How would you troubleshoot a situation where a Linux server is experiencing high disk I/O?
80. Describe your experience with managing and troubleshooting Linux kernel modules.
81. Explain how you would configure and manage a DNS server on a Linux system.
82. How would you go about analyzing and interpreting system logs on a Linux server to identify potential problems?
83. Describe your experience with managing and troubleshooting virtualized environments on Linux using tools like KVM or Xen.
84. Explain how you would implement and manage a VPN server on a Linux system.
85. How would you troubleshoot a situation where a Linux server is running out of memory?
86. Describe your approach to managing and resolving software dependencies on a Linux system.
87. Explain how you would configure and manage a mail server on a Linux system.