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*Unless noted, all commands are to be entered on one line  
(use the " \ " continuation character if needed).*

## Mounting Filesystems

mount -t msdos /dev/fd0H1440 /mnt/floppy	Mount an MS-DOS formatted floppy disk at /mnt/floppy.
mount -t iso9660 /dev/cdrom /mnt/cdrom	Mount a CD-ROM drive at /mnt/cdrom.
mount -t vfat /dev/hda1 /mnt/win	Mount a VFAT hard drive partition hda1 at /mnt/win.
mount -t smbfs //system/share/ /mnt/samba	Mount a SMB share located at //system/share at /mnt/samba.
mount -t iso9660 -o loop image.iso /mnt/iso	Mount an ISO image as a filesystem at /mnt/iso using the loopback device.
mount -t ext2 /dev/pda /mnt/ezdrive	Mount a Linux filesystem formatted SyQuest EZ-Drive cartridge at /mnt/ezdrive.
umount /mnt/cdrom	Unmount the CD-ROM.

usermount

Executes graphical utility for mounting and unmounting filesystems.

exportfs -ra

Re-apply NFS export directives as listed in /etc/exports.

## Finding Files and Text Within Files

find / -name filename	Starting at the / directory, find the file "filename".
find / -name "string"	Starting at the / directory, find the file containing the word "string".
find / -perm +4000 -user root -print	Find existing files on the system that have their SUID root permissions set.
find / -perm +2000 -group <group> -print	Find existing files on the system that have their SGID permissions set.
find / -nouser -print	Find existing files on the system that don't belong to any user listed in /etc/passwd.
info	Lists the commands and utilities installed with brief description as to what they are used for, or do.
locate filename	Locate a file "filename" using the updatedb database (see next).
updatedb	Create or update the database used by the locate command.
apropos subject	List man pages for "subject", searches the whatis database for strings.
whatis	Search the whatis database for complete words.
makewhatis	Create or update the database used by whatis and apropos commands.
which filename	Show the subdirectory containing the executable file "filename".
grep -r textstring /dir	Starting with the directory "/dir", recursively find and list all files containing the string "textstring".

## Move Copy, Delete and View Files

mv filename /home dirname
cp filename /home dirname

Move the file "filename" to the directory /home/dirname.

Copy the file "filename" to the directory /home/dirname.

rm name	Remove the file or directory “name”.	+	Match one or more repeated occurrences of the <i>previous</i> character.
rm -rf dir	Remove the entire directory “dir”, forcing the removal of included files and subdirectories recursively as well.	?	Match zero or one repeated occurrences of the <i>previous</i> character.
ls -l	List files in current directory in long format.	^	Matches an expression that follows it at the beginning of a line. Needs double quotes when used with grep.
ls -F	List files in current directory and indicate the file types.	\$	Matches the regular expression that precedes it at the end of a line. Needs single quotes when used with grep.
ls -laC	List all files in current directory in long format and display in columns.		
cat filename	Display the file “filename”.	[a-z0-9]	Single-character range (“a” through “z” or “0” through “0”).
more filename	Display the file “filename” one page at a time. Advance pages by pressing the spacebar.	[abc123]	Single-character choice (“a”, “b”, “c”, “1”, “2” or “3”).
less filename	Display the file “filename” one page at a time. Advance pages by pressing the spacebar, backup with the “b” key.	[^x,y,z]	Single-character choice, but <i>not</i> the characters “x”, “y” or “z”.
zless filename	Same as above, only used with files compressed with gzip.	(abc)	Grouped characters “abc”.
head filename	Display the first 10 lines of the file “filename”.	\	Used to escape regular expression characters such as +, *, and ^ to include the literal character in a match.
head -25 filename	Display the first 25 lines of the file “filename”.		
tail filename	Display the last 10 lines of the file “filename”.		
tail -25 filename	Display the last 25 lines of the file “filename”.		

## Meta Characters

*	Multiple-character wildcard.
?	Single-character wildcard.
[a-z0-9]	Single-character character range (“a” through “z” or “0” through “0”).
[abc123]	Single-character choice (“a”, “b”, “c”, “1”, “2” or “3”).
[!xyz]	Single-character choice, but as <i>not</i> the characters “x”, “y” or “z”.

## Regular Expressions

.	Match a single character (functionally equivalent to how the ‘?’ character works in glob expansions).
*	Match zero or more repeated occurrences of the <i>previous</i> character.

## File Permissions

	User	Group	Others
d	r	w	x
File Type	User	Group	Others
-=file	Read	Write	Execute
d=directory			
l=link			
b/c=block/char device			

When the command “ls -l” is used, a list of file names is displayed. The first column in this list details the file type and the permissions applied to the file. If a permission is denied for a set, User (Owner), Group and Others, it is represented by a **-**.

Read = 4	File permissions are altered by giving the “chmod” command and the appropriate octal code for each set. Ex.:
Write = 2	chmod 764 filename
Execute = 1	will make the file “filename” r-w-x for the user, r-w for the group, and r for any others.

## Symbolic Links

symlink -r /	List all the symbolic links on the system.
symlink -rv /   fgrep “dangling”	Find all symbolic links that are “dangling”, excluding other mounted filesystems.
ln -l linkname	Display the link-path for a link.

```
find . -type l  
-exec ls -l {} \\;
```

Find all symbolic links and show what they point to.

## chmod Modes

chmod 600

Read and write permissions for user only.

chmod 700

Read, write and execute permissions for user only.

chmod 755

Full permission for user, read and execute for group and others.

chmod 711

Full permission for user, execute for group and others.

chmod 444

Read permissions only for everybody.

chmod +x filename

Make the file "filename" executable for everybody; user, group and others.

chmod go-w filename

Revoke write permissions for group and others on the file "filename".

chmod ug=r filename

Set the permissions to readable only for user and group on the file "filename".

chmod a=r,u+w filename

Set the permissions to readable only for all (everybody) and add write-able for user on the file "filename".

## User Administration

useradd username

Create a new user account named "username".

passwd username

Assign a password to "username".

su -or su -

Switch user to root, or root and to include root's set environment (must know root password to use).

su -c "command"

Run "command" (include any options within the quotes) as root.

su username

Switch user to "username".

exit

Exit, logoff or logout of account.

## Printing

/etc/rc.d/init.d/lpd start

Start the print daemon.

/etc/rc.d/init.d/lpd stop

Stop the print daemon.

/etc/rc.d/init.d/lpd status

Display the status of the print daemon.

lpq

Query and display jobs in print queue.

lpq -a

As above, only for all printers controlled by the lpd daemon.

lpr

Print a file.

lprm

Remove jobs from print queue.

lprm -a

Remove all jobs from the print queue for the logged user.

lprm -a all

Remove all jobs for all users from the print queue (run as root).

lpc

Printer control tool.

printtool

Run the X Windows printer setup utility.

## man Pages

man -k word

Display man pages containing "word".

man subject | col -b | lpr

Print the man page "subject" as plain text.

man -t subject | col -b | lpr

Print the man page "subject" as Postscript.

*Manual pages are organized into topics:*

/usr/man/man1 *Commands* - Commands you run from within a shell.

/usr/man/man2 *System Calls* - Documentation for kernel functions.

/usr/man/man3 *Library Calls* - Manual pages for libc functions.

/usr/man/man4 *Special Files* - Information about files in the /dev/ directory.

/usr/man/man5 *File Formats* - Details of formats for /etc/passwd and other files.

/usr/man/man6 *Games*.

/usr/man/man7 *Macro Packages* - Descriptions of the Linux file system, manual pages, and others.

/usr/man/man8 *System Management* - Manual pages for root operator utilities.

/usr/man/man9 *Kernel Routines* - Documentation on Linux kernel source routines or kernel module specifications.

*And each man page is organized into sections:*

**Name** The name of the command and a brief description.

**Synopsis** How to use the command and command-line options.

**Description** An explanation of the program and its options.

**Files** A list of files used by the command and their location.

**See Also** A list of related man pages.

**Diagnostics** A description of unusual output.

**Bugs** Known problems.

**Author** The program's main author and other contributors.

## Shutdown & Reboot

shutdown -h now <i>-or-</i> init 0	Shutdown the system now and halt (no reboot).
shutdown -r now <i>-or-</i> init 6	Shutdown the system now and reboot.
shutdown -r 5	Shutdown the system in 5 minutes and reboot.
halt	Stop all processes and shutdown.
reboot	Stop all processes and reboot.

## Installing Software

./configure ; make ; make install	Execute the scripts preparing the source files for compiling and installation on the system.
apt-get update	Update package list.
apt-get upgrade	Upgrade installed packages.
apt-get upgrade -u	Upgrade installed packages. Will not install new or remove old packages (they're put on "hold").
apt-get install name	Install package "name" (also resolves any dependencies).
apt-get remove name	Removes package "name" (also removes any unneeded dependencies).
dpkg -i pkg.deb	Install package "pkg.deb".
dpkg -r pkg.deb	Removes package "pkg.deb".
dpkg -iGRE temp	Install all packages in the directory "temp" (including subdirectories) that are newer or not already installed.
rpm -ivh name.rpm	Install the RPM package "name.rpm".
rpm -Uvh name.rpm	Upgrade or install RPM package "name.rpm".
rpm -Fvh name.rpm	Upgrade only previously installed RPM package "name.rpm".
rpm -e name	Delete the RPM package "name" (do not include ".rpm" extension).
rpm -e name --nodeps	Force deletion of RPM package "name", even if dependencies are present.
rpm -l name	List the files in the RPM package "name".

rpm -ql name

Query for the installed version and list the files in the RPM package "name".

rpm -Va

Verify the integrity of all currently installed packages.

rpm -qai

Query all installed packages, displaying details on each package.

rpm -i --force name

Reinstall package "name", forcing the installation of all files included.

## Modules

insmod	Inserts a module into the kernel.
lsmod	Lists the modules currently used by the kernel.
rmmmod	Removes a module (use 'lsmod' to determine module name).
depmod	Creates a "Makefile" dependency file (modules.dep).
modprobe	Loads the modules.dep dependency file created by 'depmod'.

## Configuration Files

/etc/inittab	Specifies the runlevel that the system should boot into.
/etc/fstab	List of devices, mount points and mount options (read, write, etc.).
/etc/exports	Filesystems being exported by the NFS (Network File System) daemon.
/etc/motd	Message Of The Day; displayed to all users at login.
/etc/rc.d/rc.local	Shell script that is executed at the end of boot process.
/etc/profile	Global environment variables.
/etc/bashrc	Global functions and aliases.
/etc/cron.*	Directories that automatically execute scripts stored within at timed intervals.
/etc/HOSTNAME	Contains full host name, including domain.
/etc/hosts	A list of known host names and IP addresses on the network.
/etc/resolv.conf	Defines IP addresses of DNS servers.
/etc/samba/smb.conf	Configuration file for the Samba server, allowing file/print sharing with MS Windows clients.

/etc/httpd/conf/httd.conf	Configuration file for the Apache web server.
/etc/X11/XF86Config	Configuration file for X Windows.
/usr/X11R6/lib/X11/app-defaults	X Window application defaults.
~/.Xdefaults	Configuration file for some X Window applications.
~/.xinitrc	Defines the window manager loaded by X Windows.
~/.Xclients	Defines the window manager loaded by X Windows (Red Hat).

## System Services

chkconfig --list	Reports whether an xinetd system service has been started or stopped.
chkconfig --list <daemon>	Checks the status of a particular service.
chkconfig --level 345 nscd off	Turns "nscd" service off in runlevels 3, 4, and 5.
/etc/init.d/<daemon> stop -or- start -or- restart	Stop, start or restart the individual service <daemon>.
service <daemon> stop -or- start -or- restart	Stop, start or restart the individual service <daemon>. (rh)
/etc/init.d/xinetd stop -or- start -or- restart	To stop, start or restart a service which is managed by xinetd.
service xinetd stop -or- start -or- restart	To stop, start or restart a service which is managed by xinetd. (rh)

Linux Runlevels	
0	Halt
1	Single-user mode
2	Multiuser, without NFS
3	Multiuser mode (console)
4	unused
5	Multiuser mode (X Windows)
6	Reboot

## Crontab

crontab -u <username> -e	Edit a user's crontab file directly using the environment-specified editor.
crontab -u <username> <filename>	Read a file of cron job entries into a user's crontab file.
0,15,30,45 * * * * fetchmail	Run the command 'fetchmail' every 15 minutes.
* */4 * * * backup >> /root/backup-log 2>&1	Run a backup job every 4 hours, writing all stdout and stderr to a log file.

Crontab		/etc/crontab format
Entry	Meaning	
0-59	Minute	*
0-23	Hour	*
1-31	Day of Month	*
1-12	Month	*
0-7	Day of Week	command

## Networking

ifconfig -a	List IP address for all devices on system.
ifconfig eth0 192.168.1.12 broadcast 192.168.1.255 netmask 255.255.255.0	Assign the IP address 192.168.1.12 to the first Ethernet device (eth0), using standard Class C broadcast and netmask.
route add -net default gw 192.168.1.100 netmask 0.0.0.0 metric 1	Adds a route for a default gateway located at 192.168.1.100 for the system.

## Archiving

tar -xvf archive.tar	Decompress the files archived in the tarred file "archive.tar.gz", listing the contents to the console.
tar -xzvf archive.tar.gz	Decompress the files archived in the gzipped and tarred file "archive.tar.gz".
tar -xjvf archive.tar.bz2	Decompress the files archived in the bzip2 and tarred file "archive.tar.bz2".
tar -tvf archive.tar	Display list of contents in file "archive.tar".
tar -cvf filename	Create a tar file, "filename.tar", from file "filename".
tar -cxvf filename	Create a gzipped tar file, "filename.tar.gz", from file "filename".
tar -cjvf filename	Create a bzip2 tar file, "filename.tar.bz2", from file "filename".
tar -cMf /dev/fd0	Backup the contents of the current directory, including subdirectories, to multiple floppy disks.
bzip2 -dc <file.bz2>   -tar -xvf -	Un-bzip2 and untar "file.tar.bz2"

## Bash Shell

history	Search through the history file.
history 20	List the last 20 commands entered.
history   grep variable	Pipe the output of history through the grep command, searching for "variable".
!!	Executes the last command entered in the history file.
!#	Executes the command numbered "#" in the history file.

<code>!string</code>	Executes the command with the most recent matching string "string".
<code>env</code>	Display the shell environment variables.
<code>printenv</code>	Display the environment variables in use.

## Vim / Vi Editor

<code>:q</code>	Quit, saving changes.
<code>:q!</code>	Absolute quit (no prompt).
<code>:wq</code>	Write file, then quit.
<code>x</code>	Delete character at cursor.
<code>dw -or- dd</code>	Delete word or delete line.
<code>D</code>	Delete from cursor to EOL.
<code>u</code>	Undo.
<code>.</code>	Repeat last edit command.
<code>:set paste -and- :set nopaste</code>	Allows pasting indented lists without cascading the indents. Use ':set nopaste' after pasting.
<code>vim `find . -name "*" -exec grep -l "pattern" {} \; -print`</code>	Search for a pattern within the files in the current directory, then edit the file if found.

## X Windows

<code>startx</code>	Start X Windows.
<code>startx -- :1</code>	Run an X session on another terminal. Use Ctrl-Alt-F7 and Ctrl-Alt-F8 to switch displays.
<code>XF86Setup</code>	An X configuration utility with automatic probing of graphics cards.
<code>Xconfigurator</code>	Another X configuration utility with automatic probing of graphics cards.
<code>xf86config</code>	A text-based X configuration menu.
<code>xvidtune</code>	An X graphics tuning utility.
<code>gnome-session</code>	Starts GNOME in the .xinitrc or .Xclients files.
<code>startkde</code>	Starts KDE in the .xinitrc or .Xclients files.
<code>fvwm95</code>	Starts fvwm95 in the .xinitrc or .Xclients files.
<code>Alt-Esc</code>	Display a list of active windows.

<code>Ctrl-Alt+ -or- Ctrl-Alt-</code>	Increase or decrease screen resolution.
<code>Ctrl-Alt-Fn</code>	Switch to virtual console <i>n</i> , where <i>n</i> is a number from 1 to 6.
<code>Ctrl-Alt-F7</code>	Return to the current X session.
<code>Shift-Ctrl-F8</code>	Resize the selected window.
<code>Shift-Ctrl-r</code>	Refresh the screen.
<code>Shift-Ctrl-x</code>	Start an xterm session.
<code>Ctrl-Alt-Esc</code>	Invoke the xkill cursor.
<code>Ctrl-Alt-BkSpace</code>	Kill the X-server.

## ssh and GnuPG

<code>ssh-keygen</code>	Generate a pair of public and private keys.
<code>ssh -t myserver top</code>	Run the console program "top" on "myserver" remotely.
<code>gpg -gen-key</code>	Generate a pair of public and secret (private) keys.
<code>gpg --output revokedkey.asc --gen-revoke keyID</code>	Generate a revocation certificate for a private key, redirected to file "revokedkey.asc".
<code>gpg -r username -sea filename</code>	Encrypt file "filename" for recipient "username", creating signed armored ASCII text file "filename.asc".
<code>gpg -o filename -d filename.asc</code>	Decrypt the file "filename.asc", producing the original file "filename".
<code>gpg --import user.asc</code>	Import public key for user to your public keyring from file "user.asc".
<code>gpg --export -armor username &gt; key.asc</code>	Export public key from your keyring to an ASCII armored file "key.asc".
<code>gpg --list-keys</code>	List keys in your public keyring.
<code>gpg -fingerprint username</code>	Display fingerprints for keys in public keyring for "username".
<code>gpg -c filename</code>	Symmetrically encrypt the file "filename".
<code>tar -cf - /dir   gpg -c -o encrypted_dir.gpg</code>	Create a tar file of a directory, then symmetrically encrypt the file (GnuPG uses gzip compression natively).

## Tips & Tricks

<code>df -h</code>	Displays disk filesystems mounted, including space used and available, in "human-readable" form.
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/sbin/e2fsck hda5	Execute the filesystem check utility on the hard drive partition hda5 (unmount hda5 first!).	Alt-←	Switch to the next lowest virtual console.
mkbootdisk --device /dev/fd0 -2.4.20	Creates a boot disk on the floppy drive with version 2.4.20 of the kernel.	reset	Resets your terminal console if a binary file was displayed with cat.
fdformat /dev/fd0H1440	Format a floppy disk in device fd0 as high-density 1.44 MB.	stty -s	Display what special characters (such as ^C for interrupt, ^U for kill, ^Z to stop, ^Q to quit, etc.) are used on the system.
/sbin/mke2fs -c /dev/fd0	Format a floppy disk with the Linux ext2 filesystem, checking for bad blocks.	split -b 1420k bigfile	Split “bigfile” into smaller 1420k files, xaa, xab, xac, etc. that fit on a floppy disk.
dd if=/dev/hda of=/dev/hdb	Create a data dump of one hard drive onto another (ghosting).	cat xaa xab xac > bigfile	Reassemble “bigfile” from smaller files created with ‘split’.
cat /var/log/messages   less	Display the system log with paging.	rename .htm .html *	Rename all files in the directory with “.htm” extensions to “.html”.
cat /var/log/dmesg   less	Display the boot messages log with paging; useful for troubleshooting.	for i in \$1 ; do mv "\$i" `echo \$i   sed 's/ /_/g'` ; done	Rename all files in the directory, replacing any spaces in filenames with the underscore character.
dmesg   less	Same as above.	rdate -s ntpserver && hwclock --systohc	Synchronize your machine's system and hardware clocks with a network time server (given as a hostname or IP address).
linux single	Issued at LILO prompt, will boot into single-user mode (if root password is lost, boot “linux single” and change password).	ifconfig   awk '/inet/{print \$2}'   awk -F: '{print \$2}'	Lists just the IP addresses currently bound to the system.
ps	List current running processes for logged user.	ldd /path/program	List all of the shared library dependencies used by “program”.
ps -aux	List all current running processes for all users and daemons.		
kill 1234	Kill (stop) a process with job ID of “1234”.		
kill -9 `ps -fu uname  awk '{ print \$2 } ' grep -v PID`	Run as root, kills all processes being run by the user “uname”.		
sysreport	Collects detailed info on the system's hardware and setup, creating a compressed tar file in the /tmp directory by that name. (rh)		
ulimit -c	Displays current limit on core file size.		
ulimit -c 1000	Sets allowable size limit on core files to 512K (1000 x 512-byte blocks).		
uname -a	Displays system info (OS, host name, kernel version, date, time, time zone, year, processor type and label).		
Alt-Fn	Switch to virtual console <i>n</i> , where <i>n</i> is a number from 1 to 7 (the default maximum).		
Alt--→	Switch to the next highest virtual console.		

## GNU/Linux Links

<http://www.kernel.org/>

Linux Kernel Archives – The kernel sources.

<http://www.fsf.org/>

Free Software Foundation – GNU General Public License (GPL) and GNU software utilities and commands.

<http://www.debian.org/>

Debian Linux – GNU/Linux distributor.

<http://www.redhat.com/>

Red Hat Linux – GNU/Linux distributor.

<http://www.suse.com/>

SuSE – GNU/Linux distributor.

<http://www.mandrake.com/>

Mandrake – GNU/Linux distributor.

<http://www.slackware.com/>

Slackware Linux Project – GNU/Linux distributor.

<http://www.gentoo.org/>

Gentoo Linux – GNU/Linux distributor.

<http://www.apache.org/>

Apache Software Foundation – web server software.

<http://www.squid-cache.org/>

Squid – web proxy cache software.

<http://www.samba.org/>

Samba – file sharing with Windows systems.

<http://www.sendmail.org/>

Sendmail – email server software.

<http://www.mysql.com/>

MySQL – SQL database server software.

<http://www.perl.com/>

Perl – software programming/scripting software.

<http://wwwxfree86.org>

Xfree86 Project – X11 software.

<http://www.gnome.org/>

GNOME Project – desktop environment software.

<http://www.kde.org/>

K Desktop Environment – desktop software.

<http://www.openoffice.org/>

OpenOffice.org – Office suite software.

<http://www.vim.org/>

Vim (Vi IMproved) – text editing software.

<http://www.mozilla.org/>

Mozilla – web browser software.

<http://www.mutt.org/>

Mutt – email client software.

<http://www.gnupg.org/>

GnuPG – GNU Privacy Guard personal encryption and digital signature software.

<http://www.gimp.org/>

GIMP – GNU Image Manipulation Program.

<http://wwwroaringpenguin.com/>

Roaring Penguin – PPPoE software.

<http://www.tldp.org/>

The Linux Documentation Project – HOWTOs, manuals and documentation.

<http://www.icon.co.za/~psheer/book/rute.html.gz>

RUTE Linux – book on Linux.

<http://oreillynet.com/linux/cmd/>

O'Reilly Linux Commands – online reference.

<http://www.pathname.com/fhs/>

Filesystem Hierarchy Standard – filesystem layout and structure standards.

<http://www.dsl.org/book/>

Linux Cookbook – tips, tricks and recipes for Linux.

<http://www.oualline.com/vim-cook.html>

Vim Cookbook – tips, tricks and recipes for Vim.

<http://cvsbook.red-bean.com/>

CVS Book – very good book on using CVS.

<http://www.perldoc.com/>

PerlDoc – Perl documentation.

<http://www.ooodocs.org/>

OOo Docs – OpenOffice forums and docs.

<http://linux.oreilly.com/>

O'Reilly Linux – Linux articles and books.

<http://www-106.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/>

IBM developerWorks – Linux articles and tutorials.

<http://www.nichedev.org/>

Niche Development – Linux and technical docs.

<http://www.linuxgazette.com/>

Linux Gazette – monthly Linux magazine.

<http://www.linuxjournal.com/>

Linux Journal – monthly Linux magazine.

<http://www.linux-mag.com/>

Linux Magazine – monthly Linux magazine.

<http://www.linux.com/>

Linux.com – news, articles and resources.

<http://www.lwn.net/>

Linux Weekly News – news and resources.

<http://www.rootprompt.org/>

RootPrompt – news and resources.

<http://www.promote-opensource.org/>

Promote Open Source – news and resources.

<http://www.linuxguru.net/>

LinuxGuru – news and articles.

<http://www.ugu.com/>

UNIX Guru Universe – tips and resources.

<http://www.sourceforge.net/>

SourceForge – open-source software projects.

<http://www.rpmfind.net/>

RPMfind – online RPM package search.

<http://www.linuxsecurity.com/>

Linux Security – alerts and patch resources.

<http://www.linmodems.org/>

LinModems – Linux modem compatibility list.

<http://freshmeat.net/>

freshmeat – Linux and open-source software.

<http://counter.li.org/>

Linux Counter – Registry of Linux users; get counted!

<http://www.thelinuxshow.com/>

The Linux Show – a weekly Linux talk show.

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