Centos 6 essentials Workbook

centos 6 essentials form the foundation for understanding and managing this popular Linux distribution, which was widely adopted by system administrators and developers for its stability, security, and open-source nature. Although CentOS 6 reached its end of life on November 30, 2020, many legacy systems still run on it, making knowledge about its essentials crucial for maintenance, migration, or troubleshooting. This article provides a comprehensive overview of CentOS 6, covering installation, configuration, key features, package management, security practices, and best practices for managing CentOS 6 systems effectively.

Introduction to CentOS 6

CentOS 6 is a Linux distribution derived from the source code of Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 6. As a community-supported project, it offers a free and open-source alternative to RHEL, making it popular among enterprise users, hosting providers, and developers.

Key Features of CentOS 6

- Based on RHEL 6 with long-term support
- Linux Kernel 2.6.32
- XFS as the default file system
- Support for ext3 and ext4
- 64-bit architecture support
- Integration with yum package manager
- Support for virtualization technologies like KVM and Xen
- Security enhancements and SELinux enabled by default

Installing CentOS 6

Proper installation is the first step to effectively utilizing CentOS 6. The process involves preparing media, configuring disk partitions, and setting up system parameters.

Prerequisites for Installation

- ISO image of CentOS 6 (DVD or minimal installer)
- A dedicated server or virtual machine environment
- Minimum hardware requirements:

- 512MB RAM (recommend 1GB or more)
- 10GB disk space for minimal installation
- Backup existing data if upgrading

Installation Steps

- Boot from the installation media ? insert the DVD or USB and boot the system.
- Select language and keyboard layout ? choose according to your preference.
- Partition disks ? either automatic or manual partitioning. For custom setups, use LVM for flexibility.
- Configure network settings ? set static or dynamic IP addresses as needed.
- Set root password ? choose a strong password.
- Select software packages ? choose minimal, server, or custom installation options.
- Begin installation ? review settings and start the process.
- Post-installation setup ? create additional user accounts, configure services, and update the system.

Basic Configuration and Management

Once installed, configuring CentOS 6 involves setting up users, services, security policies, and system updates.

Managing Users and Permissions

- Adding users:

```bash
useradd username
passwd username
```

- Managing groups:

```bash
```

groupadd groupname

usermod -aG groupname username

```

- Setting permissions: Use `chmod` and `chown` to assign permissions on files and directories.

## Configuring Network

- Edit `/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-eth0` for static IP configurations.
- Restart network service:

```bash

service network restart

```

Firewall Configuration

CentOS 6 uses `iptables` for firewall management.

- To list rules:

```bash

iptables -L

```

- To allow HTTP traffic:

```bash

iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 80 -j ACCEPT

service iptables save

service iptables restart

```

Package Management with YUM

YUM (Yellowdog Updater Modified) is the primary package management tool for CentOS 6, enabling easy installation, updates, and removal of software.

Common YUM Commands

- Update system packages:

```bash

yum update

```

- Install new packages:

```bash

yum install package_name

```

- Remove packages:

```bash

yum remove package_name

```
```

- Search for packages:

```bash
yum search keyword
```

- List installed packages:

```bash
yum list installed
```

Enabling Repositories

CentOS 6 uses repositories such as `base`, `updates`, and `extras`. To add third-party repositories:

- Create a repo file under `/etc/yum.repos.d/`
- Run `yum clean all` and `yum update` to refresh repositories

Security Best Practices

Securing CentOS 6 is vital due to its age and potential vulnerabilities.

Applying Security Updates

Regular updates are crucial:

```bash
yum update
```

Subscribe to security mailing lists for timely patches.

SELinux Configuration

- SELinux is enabled by default; check its status:

```bash
getenforce
```

- To set SELinux to enforcing mode:

```bash
setenforce 1
```

- To modify SELinux policies, edit `/etc/selinux/config`.

Firewall and Network Security

- Use `iptables` rules for controlling inbound/outbound traffic.
- Disable unnecessary services:

```bash
chkconfig --list
chkconfig service_name off
```

- Use SSH keys for remote access, disable root login over SSH:

```bash
```

vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

PermitRootLogin no

```

## Managing Services and Processes

CentOS 6 employs `service` and `chkconfig` for managing system services.

### Starting, Stopping, and Enabling Services

- To start a service:

```bash
service service_name start
```

- To stop:

```bash
service service_name stop
```

- To enable a service at boot:

```bash
chkconfig service_name on
```

Monitoring System Resources
```

- Use `top`, `htop` (if installed), and `ps` commands for process management.
- Check disk usage:

```bash
df -h
```

- Check memory usage:

```bash
free -m
```

Backup and Recovery

Regular backups safeguard against data loss.

Backup Strategies

- Use `rsync` for incremental backups.
- Clone entire disks with tools like `dd`.
- Use tar archives for configuration files.

Restoring Data

- Use `rsync` or extract tar archives to restore data.
- Maintain backup copies off-site for disaster recovery.

Upgrading or Migrating from CentOS 6

Since CentOS 6 has reached its end of life, upgrading or migrating is recommended.

Migration Options

- Upgrade to CentOS 7 or 8, following official migration guides.
- Perform a fresh install and migrate data.
- Use virtualization or containerization to run CentOS 6 legacy systems alongside newer environments.

Conclusion

Understanding the essentials of CentOS 6 is vital for maintaining legacy systems, troubleshooting issues, or planning migration strategies. Despite its end-of-life status, many organizations still rely on CentOS 6, making it important to grasp its installation procedures, configuration methods, package management, security practices, and system management techniques. Proper handling of these essentials ensures stability, security, and efficiency in managing CentOS 6 systems.

Note: Since CentOS 6 is no longer supported, it is highly recommended to plan for migration to newer, supported distributions to benefit from security updates and modern features.

CentOS 6 Essentials: An In-Depth Exploration of Its Features, Architecture, and Legacy

CentOS 6, a prominent Linux distribution, has long served as a reliable choice for enterprise environments, web hosting providers, and system administrators seeking stability and open-source flexibility. As a rebuild of Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 6 sources, CentOS 6 embodies the core principles of stability, security, and long-term support, making it a critical piece in the Linux ecosystem during its active lifespan. This article offers a comprehensive, detailed examination of CentOS 6 essentials, covering its architecture, key features, installation process, system management, security considerations, and its legacy in the broader Linux landscape.

Understanding CentOS 6: An Overview

What Is CentOS 6?

CentOS 6 is a Linux distribution derived directly from the source code of Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6, with minimal modifications. It provides a free, community-supported platform that aims to deliver enterprise-grade stability without the associated costs. Released in July 2011, CentOS 6 was designed to appeal to users who require a dependable operating system for servers, desktops, or cloud environments, with a focus on longevity and security updates.

Target Audience and Use Cases

CentOS 6 primarily targeted:

- Web hosting providers
- Enterprise server deployments
- Development and testing environments
- Educational and research institutions
- Cloud infrastructure

Its core use cases include web hosting, database management, virtualization, and as a platform for enterprise applications due to its stability and compatibility with RHEL.

Architectural Foundations of CentOS 6

Kernel and Hardware Support

CentOS 6 ships with Linux kernel version 2.6.32, a long-term support kernel that provides broad hardware compatibility and stability. This kernel supports:

- x86 (32-bit) and x86_64 architectures
- Support for newer hardware through backported drivers
- Virtualization enhancements via KVM and Xen hypervisors
- Advanced file system features, including ext4 support

The kernel's stability was a significant advantage, enabling CentOS 6 to run reliably on a wide array of hardware configurations, from commodity servers to high-end enterprise systems.

Package Management and Repositories

CentOS 6 employs the RPM Package Manager (RPM) system, coupled with the YUM (Yellowdog Updater Modified) package manager for software installation, updates, and dependency resolution. Its repositories include:

- CentOS base repository
- Updates repository
- EPEL (Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux) for additional software
- Third-party repositories

This structure ensures a robust ecosystem for installing and maintaining software, with security updates and bug fixes delivered through regular repository updates.

Default Filesystem and Storage Support

CentOS 6 supports a range of filesystems:

- ext3 (default for many installations)
- ext4 (available but not default)
- XFS for high-performance storage needs
- Logical Volume Manager (LVM) for flexible disk management
- Software RAID for redundancy

The combination of these storage options allows administrators to tailor their storage solutions for performance, reliability, and scalability.

Core Features and Components of CentOS 6

System Initialization and Service Management

CentOS 6 uses the traditional SysVinit system for managing system startup and service control. Key features include:

- Runlevels: predefined modes of operation (e.g., single-user, multi-user)
- init scripts: located in /etc/rc.d/rc. directories
- Service commands: `service` and `chkconfig` for managing startup services

While later distributions transitioned to systemd, CentOS 6?s reliance on SysVinit provided simplicity and familiarity for administrators accustomed to traditional init systems.

Security and SELinux

Security-Enhanced Linux (SELinux) is enabled by default, enforcing mandatory access controls to restrict process capabilities and prevent malicious exploits. Key aspects:

- Fine-grained security policies
- Context-based access controls
- Tools like `setenforce`, `semanage`, and `audit2allow` for management and troubleshooting

SELinux significantly enhanced the security posture of CentOS 6, especially in multi-tenant hosting environments.

Networking and Firewall

CentOS 6 features:

- NetworkManager (optional) for dynamic network configuration
- Legacy network scripts in /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ for static configurations
- iptables as the default firewall tool, allowing detailed rule-based filtering
- Support for bonding and bridging for advanced networking setups

Proper network configuration was vital for server deployments, emphasizing stability and security.

Virtualization Support

CentOS 6 offered integrated virtualization solutions:

- KVM (Kernel-based Virtual Machine) support
- Xen hypervisor support
- Tools like virt-manager for graphical management
- libvirt library for programmatic control

Virtualization capabilities enabled data centers and developers to create isolated environments efficiently.

Installation and Deployment of CentOS 6

Installation Process Overview

CentOS 6?s installation process was designed to be straightforward, yet flexible:

- Boot from DVD or USB media
- Language and keyboard selection
- Disk partitioning options (automatic or manual)
- Network configuration
- Package selection (minimal, server, desktop environments)
- Post-installation setup and updates

The Anaconda installer, CentOS?s graphical installation utility, provided a user-friendly interface suitable for both novices and experienced administrators.

Partitioning and Filesystem Choices

Partitioning options included:

- Automatic partitioning with LVM
- Manual partitioning for advanced setups
- Filesystem selection: ext3 default, ext4, or XFS

LVM allowed dynamic resizing of partitions, facilitating scalable storage management.

Post-Installation Configuration

After installation, essential configuration steps included:

- Setting root password and creating user accounts
- Configuring network interfaces
- Applying security updates
- Installing necessary software packages
- Configuring SELinux and firewall policies

These steps ensured the system was hardened and tailored to specific operational requirements.

System Management and Administration

Package Management and Updates

YUM served as the primary tool for:

- Installing new software (`yum install`)
- Updating existing packages (`yum update`)
- Removing packages (`yum remove`)
- Managing repositories and dependencies

Regular updates were critical for security and stability, often delivered via `yum update`.

System Monitoring and Logging

CentOS 6 included:

- `top`, `htop`, and `ps` for process monitoring
- `iostat`, `vmstat`, and `free` for resource utilization
- Log files in /var/log/, including messages, secure, and yum logs
- Tools like `sar` and `collectl` for detailed performance analysis

Effective monitoring was essential for maintaining uptime and performance.

Security Management

Beyond SELinux, system administrators relied on:

- Firewall configuration via iptables
- SSH key-based authentication
- Regular security patches
- Fail2ban for intrusion prevention
- User and group management

Strong security practices were vital, especially in hosting environments.

Legacy and End-of-Life Considerations

Support Lifecycle

CentOS 6 reached its end-of-life (EOL) on November 30, 2020, after nearly a decade of active support. During its lifecycle:

- Security updates and bug fixes were regularly released
- The platform remained stable and reliable for critical workloads
- Community and third-party support persisted beyond official EOL

Post-EOL, users were encouraged to migrate to newer distributions like CentOS 7, CentOS 8, or alternatives such as Rocky Linux or AlmaLinux.

Impact and Significance

CentOS 6 played a vital role in democratizing enterprise Linux:

- Offering a free, open-source alternative to RHEL

- Supporting a vast ecosystem of applications and tools
- Influencing the design and features of subsequent CentOS versions

Its stability and extensive documentation made it a mainstay in data centers worldwide.

Conclusion: The Lasting Essentials of CentOS 6

CentOS 6 remains a testament to the principles of open-source software?stability, security, and community-driven development. While it has reached its end of support, understanding its architecture, features, and management practices provides valuable insights into enterprise Linux administration. Its legacy continues through successor projects and the enduring knowledge base it helped build. For system administrators and IT professionals, mastering CentOS 6 essentials offers a foundation for managing Linux environments and appreciating the evolution of enterprise operating systems.

In summary, CentOS 6's core features?long-term support kernel, RPM/YUM package management, SELinux security, and virtualization support?collectively underscored its suitability for mission-critical applications. Its straightforward installation and system management workflows made it accessible while offering the robustness needed for enterprise deployment. As the Linux community moves forward, the lessons learned from CentOS 6 remain relevant, emphasizing the importance of stability, security, and community support in operating system choices.

QuestionAnswer What are the essential packages to install on CentOS 6 for a minimal server setup? Key packages include 'vim' or 'nano' for editing, 'wget' or 'curl' for downloading, 'net-tools' for network management, 'yum' for package management, and 'iptables' for firewall configuration. How do I update the CentOS 6 system to ensure all packages are current? Use the command 'yum update' to upgrade all installed packages to their latest versions available in the repositories. What is the best way to secure a CentOS 6 server? Implement a firewall with iptables or firewalld, disable root login via SSH, keep the system updated, configure SELinux, and remove unnecessary services to reduce attack surface. How can I install and configure a LAMP stack on CentOS 6? Install Apache with 'yum install httpd', MySQL with 'yum install mysql-server', and PHP with 'yum install php'. Then start and enable services with 'service httpd start' and 'chkconfig httpd on'. What are common troubleshooting commands for CentOS 6 networking issues? Use 'ifconfig' or 'ip addr' to check interfaces, 'ping' to test connectivity, 'netstat -tulnp' to view active connections, and 'service network restart' to restart network services. How do I add a new user on CentOS 6 with proper permissions? Create a user with 'adduser username', assign a password with 'passwd username', and add to necessary groups using 'usermod -G groupname username'. What are the best practices for backing up CentOS 6 data? Use tools like 'rsync' for incremental backups, 'tar' for archiving, and consider scheduling regular backups with cron. Also, off-site storage ensures data safety. How do I enable remote SSH access on CentOS 6? Ensure the SSH daemon is installed (usually by default), start the service with 'service sshd start', enable it at boot with 'chkconfig sshd on', and verify port 22

is open in the firewall. What are the common security updates available for CentOS 6? Security updates include patches for vulnerabilities in system packages, openSSL, openssh, and other services. Regularly run 'yum update' and monitor security mailing lists for alerts. Is CentOS 6 still supported, and what should I consider for upgrades? CentOS 6 reached end-of-life in November 2020, and no longer receives official updates. It is highly recommended to upgrade to CentOS 7 or CentOS 8 (or alternative distributions) for security and support.

Related keywords: CentOS 6, Linux essentials, server administration, CentOS tutorials, Linux commands, system setup, package management, user management, security configurations, service management

centos commands cheat sheet

CentOS Commands Cheat Sheet: Your Ultimate Guide to Managing CentOS Systems

centos commands cheat sheet is an essential resource for system administrators, developers, and IT professionals who work with CentOS Linux. Whether you're performing routine maintenance, troubleshooting issues, or deploying applications, having a solid understanding of core CentOS commands can significantly streamline your workflow. This comprehensive guide aims to provide a detailed overview of the most useful commands, organized into categories for easy reference. From system management to network configuration, this cheat sheet covers the essential commands needed to efficiently operate and manage CentOS servers.

Getting Started with Basic CentOS Commands

Before diving into advanced commands, it's crucial to familiarize yourself with basic commands that form the foundation of CentOS system management.

1. Checking System Information

- uname -a: Displays detailed kernel and system information.
- hostnamectl: Shows or sets the hostname.
- cat /etc/centos-release: Reveals the CentOS version.
- uptime: Shows how long the system has been running.
- lsb_release -a: Displays distribution-specific information.

2. Managing Files and Directories

- ls -l: Lists directory contents in long format.
- cd /path/to/directory: Changes the current directory.
- pwd: Prints the current working directory.
- cp source destination: Copies files or directories.
- mv source destination: Moves or renames files.
- rm -rf directory: Recursively deletes a directory and its contents.
- mkdir directory_name: Creates a new directory.

3. Managing Users and Permissions

- useradd username: Adds a new user.
- passwd username: Sets or changes user password.
- usermod -aG group username: Adds user to a group.
- groupadd groupname: Creates a new group.
- chmod 755 filename: Sets permissions.
- chown user:group filename: Changes ownership.

Package Management Commands

CentOS uses yum (CentOS 7) and dnf (CentOS 8 and later) for package management. Knowing how to install, update, and remove packages is fundamental.

1. Installing Packages

- yum install package_name (CentOS 7)
- dnf install package_name (CentOS 8+)

2. Removing Packages

- yum remove package_name (CentOS 7)
- dnf remove package_name (CentOS 8+)

3. Updating Packages and System

- yum update (CentOS 7)
- dnf update (CentOS 8+)

4. Searching for Packages

- yum search package_name (CentOS 7)
- dnf search package_name (CentOS 8+)

5. Listing Installed Packages

- yum list installed (CentOS 7)
- dnf list installed (CentOS 8+)

Service and Process Management

Managing services and processes is vital for maintaining server health and ensuring applications run smoothly.

1. Managing Systemd Services

- systemctl start service_name: Starts a service.
- systemctl stop service_name: Stops a service.
- systemctl restart service_name: Restarts a service.
- systemctl enable service_name: Enables service to start on boot.
- systemctl disable service_name: Disables service from starting on boot.
- systemctl status service_name: Checks the status of a service.

2. Listing Processes

- ps aux: Displays all running processes.
- top: Real-time process monitoring.
- htop (if installed): An enhanced interactive process viewer.

3. Managing Processes

- kill PID: Sends SIGTERM to terminate process.

- kill -9 PID: Forcefully kills a process.
- pkill process_name: Kills processes by name.
- killall process_name: Kills all processes with the specified name.

Network Configuration and Troubleshooting

Effective network management is essential for server accessibility and security.

1. Viewing Network Interfaces

- ip addr show: Displays all network interfaces.
- ifconfig: Deprecated but still available on some systems for interface info.
- ip link show: Shows link layer details.

2. Managing Network Services

- systemctl restart network.service: Restarts network service.
- nmcli device status: Checks network device status (NetworkManager CLI).

3. Testing Network Connectivity

- ping hostname/IP: Tests connectivity.
- traceroute hostname/IP: Traces route to host.
- netstat -tulnp: Lists active network connections and listening ports.
- ss -tuln: Alternative to netstat for socket statistics.

4. Configuring Firewall

- firewall-cmd --state: Checks firewall status.
- firewall-cmd --list-all: Lists current firewall rules.
- firewall-cmd --add-port=80/tcp --permanent: Opens port 80 permanently.
- firewall-cmd --reload: Reloads firewall rules.

Disk and Storage Management Commands

Managing disk space and partitions is key for performance and data integrity.

1. Viewing Disk Usage

- df -h: Shows disk space usage in human-readable format.
- du -sh /path/to/directory: Displays size of a directory.

2. Managing Disks and Partitions

- lsblk: Lists block devices.
- fdisk -l: Lists partition tables.
- parted /dev/sdX: Used for partitioning disks.
- mkfs.ext4 /dev/sdX: Formats a partition with ext4 filesystem.
- mount /dev/sdX /mnt/mount_point: Mounts a filesystem.
- umount /mnt/mount_point: Unmounts a filesystem.

3. Logical Volume Management (LVM)

- lvcreate -L 10G -n volume_name volume_group: Creates a logical volume.
- lvextend -L +10G /dev/volume_group/volume_name: Extends a volume.
- lvremove /dev/volume_group/volume_name: Removes a volume.
- vgcreate and vgextend: Manage volume groups.

Security and User Management Commands

Security is a top priority, and CentOS provides robust tools for managing users, permissions, and security policies.

1. Managing User Accounts

- useradd username: Adds a new user.
- passwd username: Sets user password.
- usermod -aG group username: Adds user to a group.
- userdel username: Deletes a user.

2. Managing SSH Access

- systemctl restart sshd: Restarts SSH service.

- vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config: Edits SSH configuration.
- ssh user@hostname: Connects via SSH.

3. Setting Up Firewalls and SELinux

- getenforce: Checks SELinux status.
- setenforce 1: Sets SELinux to enforcing mode.
- semanage port -a -t http_port_t -p tcp 8080: Changes SELinux port context.

System Monitoring and Log Management

Monitoring your server's health and analyzing logs are vital for proactive maintenance.

1. Viewing System Logs

- journalctl: Displays system logs.
- tail -f /var/log/messages: Real-time log monitoring.
- less /var/log/secure: Security-related logs.

2. Monitoring System Resources

- free -h: Shows memory usage.
- vmstat: Reports system performance.
- iostat: Monitors CPU and I/O statistics.

3. Performance Testing Tools

- top / htop: Real-time process monitoring.
- nload: Network bandwidth usage.
- iftop: Displays network bandwidth per connection.

Backup and Restore Commands

Data integrity and disaster recovery depend on proper backup procedures.

1. Creating Archives

- tar -cvzf archive_name.tar.gz /path/to/directory: Creates a compressed archive.
- tar -xvzf archive_name.tar.gz: Extracts archive.

2. Copying Files and Directories

- rsync -avz /source /destination: Synchronizes files efficiently.

CentOS Commands Cheat Sheet: Your Comprehensive Guide to Navigating CentOS Linux

CentOS, a popular enterprise-class Linux distribution derived from sources freely provided by Red Hat, is widely used for servers, development environments, and enterprise applications. Mastering CentOS commands is essential for system administrators, developers, and anyone managing CentOS systems. Whether you're performing routine maintenance, troubleshooting, or deploying services, having a solid command-line knowledge base can significantly streamline your workflow. This article offers a detailed CentOS commands cheat sheet, providing a structured, easy-to-reference guide to the most common and powerful commands on CentOS systems.

Why Mastering CentOS Commands Matters

Working with CentOS primarily involves the command line, especially in server environments where graphical interfaces are often disabled for performance or security reasons. Commands allow you to install software, manage files, monitor system health, configure network settings, and troubleshoot issues efficiently. Having a comprehensive cheat sheet helps in quick referencing, reducing the time spent searching for syntax or options, and ensures you follow best practices.

Basic System Information Commands

- uname

Displays information about the Linux kernel.

- `uname -r` ? Kernel version
- `uname -a` ? All kernel information, including hostname and architecture

- hostname

Shows or sets the system hostname.

- `hostname` ? Display current hostname
- `hostnamectl` ? View and edit hostname and other system info

- uptime

Shows how long the system has been running, including load averages.

- `uptime` ? System uptime and load averages

- arch

Displays the system architecture.

- `arch` or `uname -m`

User Management Commands

- whoami

Displays the current logged-in user.

- id

Shows user and group IDs.

- useradd / userdel / usermod

Manage user accounts.

- `useradd username` ? Create new user
- `usermod -aG groupname username` ? Add user to a group
- `userdel username` ? Delete user

- passwd

Change user password.

- `passwd username` ? Change password for a user

- groups

Lists groups the user belongs to.

File and Directory Commands

- ls

Lists directory contents.

- `ls -l` ? Long listing format
- `ls -a` ? Show hidden files
- `ls -lh` ? Human-readable sizes

- cd

Change directory.

- `cd /path/to/directory`

- pwd

Print current working directory.

- cp / mv / rm

Copy, move, and delete files.

- `cp source destination`
- `mv source destination`
- `rm filename` ? Remove file
- `rm -r directory` ? Remove directory recursively

- mkdir / rmdir

Create or remove directories.

- `mkdir newdir`
- `rmdir directory`

- find

Search for files and directories.

- `find /path -name filename`
- `find /path -type f -name ".log"`

Package Management Commands (YUM/DNF)

CentOS traditionally uses YUM, but newer versions adopt DNF (Dandified YUM).

- YUM

- `yum check-update` ? Check for available updates
- `yum update` ? Update all packages
- `yum install package_name` ? Install new package
- `yum remove package_name` ? Remove package
- `yum list installed` ? List installed packages
- `yum search keyword` ? Search for packages

- DNF (CentOS 8 and later)

- `dnf check-update`
- `dnf update`
- `dnf install package_name`
- `dnf remove package_name`
- `dnf list installed`
- `dnf search keyword`

Service and Process Management

- systemctl

CentOS 7+ uses systemd for service management.

- `systemctl start service_name` ? Start a service
- `systemctl stop service_name` ? Stop a service
- `systemctl restart service_name` ? Restart a service
- `systemctl enable service_name` ? Enable service at boot
- `systemctl disable service_name` ? Disable service at boot
- `systemctl status service_name` ? Check service status
- `systemctl is-active service_name` ? Check if service is active

- ps / top / htop

Monitor processes.

- `ps aux` ? List all running processes
- `top` ? Real-time process viewer
- `htop` ? Interactive process viewer (may require installation)

- kill / killall / pkill

Terminate processes.

- `kill PID` ? Kill process by ID
- `killall process_name` ? Kill all processes with a given name

- `pkill process_name` ? Send signals to processes by name

Disk and Filesystem Management

- df / du

Display disk space usage.

- `df -h` ? Human-readable disk space usage
- `du -sh /path/to/directory` ? Total size of directory

- mount / umount

Mount or unmount filesystems.

- `mount /dev/sdX /mnt/point`
- `umount /mnt/point`

- fdisk / parted

Partition disks.

- `fdisk /dev/sdX` ? Manage disk partitions
- `parted /dev/sdX` ? Advanced partitioning

- mkfs

Create filesystem.

- `mkfs.ext4 /dev/sdX1` ? Format partition with ext4

Network Management Commands

- ip / ifconfig

Configure and display network interfaces.

- `ip addr` ? Show IP addresses
- `ifconfig` ? Deprecated, but still used in some systems

- ping

Test network connectivity.

- `ping google.com`

- netstat / ss

Display network connections.

- `netstat -tuln` ? Show active listening ports
- `ss -tuln` ? Modern alternative to netstat

- nmcli

Manage network connections via NetworkManager.

- `nmcli device status` ? Show device status
- `nmcli connection show` ? List network connections

- firewall-cmd

Manage firewalld (CentOS 7+).

- `firewall-cmd --state` ? Check status

- `firewall-cmd --permanent --add-service=http` ? Allow HTTP
- `firewall-cmd --reload` ? Reload firewall

System Monitoring and Logs

- journalctl

Query systemd logs.

- `journalctl -xe` ? Show recent logs with details
- `journalctl -u service_name` ? Logs for specific service

- free

Show memory usage.

- `free -h` ? Human-readable output

- uptime / load average

Monitor system load.

File Compression and Archiving

- tar

Create or extract archives.

- `tar -cvf archive.tar /path/to/files` ? Create archive
- `tar -xvf archive.tar` ? Extract archive
- `tar -czvf archive.tar.gz /path/to/files` ? Create gzip compressed archive
- `tar -xzvf archive.tar.gz` ? Extract gzip archive

- gzip / gunzip

Compress or decompress files.

- `gzip filename`
- `gunzip filename.gz`

- zip / unzip

Create or extract ZIP files.

- `zip archive.zip files`
- `unzip archive.zip`

User and Permission Management

- chmod

Change file permissions.

- `chmod 755 filename` ? Set permissions

- chown

Change file ownership.

- `chown user:group filename`

- sudo

Execute commands as root.

- `sudo command`

Troubleshooting and Maintenance

- ping / traceroute

Diagnose network issues.

- nslookup / dig

Query DNS records.

- `nslookup domain.com`
- `dig domain.com`

- systemctl reboot / poweroff

Reboot or power off.

- `systemctl reboot`
- `systemctl poweroff`

Final Tips

- Always run commands with appropriate permissions, often requiring `sudo`.
- Regularly update your system to ensure security and stability.
- Use man pages (`man command`) for detailed command options.
- Backup configuration files before making significant changes.

Conclusion

Mastering CentOS commands is vital for efficient system administration, troubleshooting, and automation. This cheat sheet covers the core commands you need to manage files, users, services, networks, and more on your CentOS systems. Keep this guide handy as a reference, and continue exploring the rich set of tools available within CentOS to become a proficient Linux administrator.

QuestionAnswer What is the command to check the version of CentOS installed on my system? You can check the CentOS version by running: cat /etc/centos-release or lsb_release -a. How do I list all the files and directories in the current directory? Use the command: ls. For detailed information, add options like ls -l or ls -la. What command is used to update all packages on CentOS? Run: sudo yum update to update all installed packages to their latest versions. How can I start, stop, or restart a service in CentOS? Use systemctl commands, e.g., sudo systemctl start service_name, stop, or restart service_name. Which command is used to check disk space usage? Use the command: df -h to display disk space usage in human-readable format. How do I view real-time system logs on CentOS? Use: journalctl -f to follow system logs in real-time. What command helps me monitor CPU and memory usage? Commands like top or htop (if installed) can be used to monitor CPU and memory usage interactively. How do I permanently add an environment variable in CentOS? Add the export statement to /etc/profile or ~/.bash_profile, e.g., export MY_VAR='value', and then source the file or log out and back in.

Related keywords: CentOS, Linux commands, command line, terminal commands, cheat sheet, system administration, shell commands, Linux tips, command shortcuts, CentOS tutorials

Read the full article online: Centos commands cheat sheet