

How to Get Help in Linux

Sometimes, especially for Windows and Macintosh administrators, a advise to the Linux operative grouping crapper seem a bit intimidating, especially because of the more traditional advise to administration ended the Command Line Interface (CLI). The good news is that Linux includes ample, built-in support including “man” pages, “info”, “help”, and “apropos”. In this article, I’ll explain your options and provide you some practice using each of them. The aggregation in this article should be applicable in some savor of Linux.

Using “man”

“man” formats and displays the online drill pages. There are drill pages for nearly every bidding imaginable. Unfortunately, many of the Negro pages assume a evenhandedly extensive background in UNIX, therefore they ofttimes require research beyond the initial Negro page.

The Negro pages are separated into sections. Many Negro entries materialize in exclusive digit section, but some might materialize in multiple sections such as when a bidding and a accumulation function have the same name. The sections that are most probable to be of welfare to grouping and network administrators are sections 1, 5, and 8.

Section 1: user commands

Section 2: grouping calls

Section 3: accumulation functions

Section 4: special files

Section 5: enter formats

Section 6: games (introduction)

Section 7: conventions and miscellany

Section 8: administration and privileged commands Section L: math accumulation functions

Section N: tcl fuctions (Tool bidding language, a dynamic programming language)

You crapper analyse a Negro tender as follows (the “#” or “\$” is conception of the prompt):
#man chown

The above bidding module pass the Negro tender for the “chown” command.

You crapper specify a particular section as follows: #man 1 chmod

The above bidding would pass exclusive section 1 (the user commands section) of the drill for the chmod command. chmod is also a grouping call, so if you wanted to wager the Negro tender for the grouping call “chmod”, you would need to enter the mass command: #man 2 chmod

Using “info”

“info” is an on-line drill reader utilised by the GNU Project to writing utilities. It’s similar to Negro (and ofttimes produces same documents), but offers a standardized set of commands for watch the documentation. The content programme does not assume as enthusiastic a depth of UNIX knowledge as man.

Basic usage is similar to man: #info chown

The above bidding module pass the content tender for the chown command.

Info divides its support into nodes instead of sections. A node, same a section in man, describes a limited topic at a limited take of detail. In a moment, I’ll show you where to encounter a tutorial on using info.

Using “help”

The “help” option is included with most GNU utilities. It displays bidding options and another aggregation about the programme in question, for example: #ls –help

The above bidding would show options and another aggregation about the ls command.

Using “apropos”

“apropos” looks in the statement sections of Negro pages for book strings. When executed, appropriate

module convey every Negro tender whose statement contains the specified book string: #apropos edit

The above bidding module pass a list of every Negro tender whose statement contains the book string “edit”.

apropos is helpful when you know what you want to do, but you’re not destined of the appropriate programme or bidding to accomplish it.

Practice Getting Help

The mass exercises module familiarize you with the various commands available for getting support including man, info, apropos, and –help.

Practice working with man

1. In a terminal window, enter the mass command: \$man ls
2. Press Enter. Notice that digit additional line of book is displayed.
3. Now press the expanse bar. Notice that an additional tender of book is displayed.
4. Use the arrow keys to advise up and downbound ended the page. When you’re finished, touch “q” to quit.
5. Enter the mass command: \$man 1 chmod
What do you wager in the upper left-hand corner of the screen?
6. Touch “q” to quit.
7. Enter the mass bidding (“\$” is conception of the prompt): \$man 2 chmod
Notice in both the upper left and right-hand corners of the screen that the section number is displayed.
8. Touch “q” to depart the Negro page.

Practice working with the appropriate utility

1. Start by entering the mass bidding to wager the Negro tender for chmod: \$man chmod
2. Read the statement and notice that it includes the word “permissions”.
3. Now, enter the mass command: \$apropos permissions
4. Notice in the output that chmod is listed, along with every another bidding whose statement includes the word “permissions”.

Practice Working with info

Next, you’ll ingest the content programme to analyse support for commands and learn how to navigate content pages by working ended the prototypal conception of an “info” tutorial.

1. Enter the mass bidding to wager the content tender for chmod: \$info chmod
The content tender for chmod opens.
2. Touch the “h” key to start a brief tutorial for info.
3. Touch the “q” key when you’re finished.

Working with –help

This exercise module show you how to ingest –help with GNU utilities.

1. Enter the mass command: \$chmod –help
Notice that the support screen, albeit abbreviated, shows you the proper syntax for using the chmod command.
2. Enter the mass command: \$ls –help
Notice that the support screen fills more than digit screen. Use the key combination of Shift-PageUp and Shift-PageDown to advise up and downbound ended the Terminal window.

As you crapper wager from the preceeding exercises, in spite of the somewhat daunting nature of a CLI, Linux provides ample support for your ingest in mastering the operative system.