



## Debian Reference Card

Version 12 - Debian 12 'Bookworm' - 2023-03-22

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

### Dpkg

dpkg-query -W --showformat= format	Query installed packages, format e.g. '\${Package}' \${Version} \${Installed-Size}\n'
dpkg --get-selections > file	Write package selections to file.
dpkg --set-selections < file	Set package selections from file.

### The Network

/etc/network/ interfaces	Interface configuration (if not controlled via network-manager).
if [up][down] device	Start, stop network interfaces according to the file above.
ip	Show and manipulate network interfaces and routing, needs iproute2.
ssh -X user@host	Login at another machine.
scp files user@host:path	Copy files to other machine (and vice versa).

### Getting Help

man page or man bash	Read online help for every command and many configuration files.
command [- - help, - h]	Brief help for most commands.
/usr/share/ doc/package-name/	Find all documentation here, optional file README.Debian contains specifics.
<a href="#">Web documentation</a>	Reference, manuals, FAQs, HOWTOs, etc. at <a href="https://www.debian.org/doc/">https://www.debian.org/doc/</a>
<a href="https://lists.debian.org/">Mailing lists at https://lists. debian.org/</a>	The community is always helpful, search for users.
<a href="https://wiki.debian.org/">The Wiki at https://wiki. debian.org/</a>	Contains all kind of useful information.

### Installation

<a href="#">Installer</a>	All information about it at <a href="https://www.debian.org/devel/debian-installer/">https://www.debian.org/ devel/debian-installer/</a>
<a href="#">CD images</a>	Download from <a href="https://www.debian.org/distrib/">https:// www.debian.org/distrib/</a>
boot: expert	E.g. to set up the network w/o DHCP or to adapt bootloader installation.
Or use a <a href="#">Live image</a>	Containing the user-friendly Calamares installer: <a href="https://www.debian.org/CD/live/">https://www.debian.org/ CD/live/</a>

### Bugs

<a href="https://bugs.debian.org/">Bug Tracking at https://bugs. debian.org/</a>	All about existing and fixed bugs.
Package specific	See <a href="https://bugs.debian.org/package-name/">https://bugs.debian. org/package-name/</a> , use wnpp to ask for new packages.

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<b>Bugs</b>	
reportbug	Report a bug by e-mail.
<b>Reporting</b>	Instructions at <a href="https://www.debian.org/Bugs/Reporting">https://www.debian.org/Bugs/Reporting</a>

<b>Configuration</b>	
/etc/	All system configuration files are under directory /etc/.
editor files	Default text editor. May be <b>nano, emacs, vi, joe.</b>
<b>CUPS</b> at http://hostname:631	Browser interface to printing system.
dpkg-reconfigure package-name	Reconfigure a package, e.g. keyboard-configuration (keyboard), locales (localization).
update-alternatives options	Manage command alternatives.
update-grub	After changing /etc/default/grub.

<b>Daemons and System</b>	
systemctl restart name.service	Restart a service, system daemon.
systemctl stop name.service	Stop a service, system daemon.
systemctl start name.service	Start a service, system daemon.
systemctl halt	Halts system.
systemctl reboot	Reboots system.
systemctl poweroff	Shuts down system.
systemctl suspend	Suspends system.
systemctl hibernate	Hibernates system.

/var/log/	All log files are under this directory.
/etc/default/	Default values for many daemons and services.

<b>Important Shell Commands</b>	
cat files	Print files to screen.
cd directory	Change to directory.
cp files dest	Copy files and directories.
echo string	Echo string to screen.

<b>Important Shell Commands</b>	
gzip, bzip2, xz [-d] files	Compress, uncompress files.
pager files	Show contents of files.
ls [files]	List files.
mkdir directory-names	Create directories.
mv file1 file2	Move, rename files.
rm files	Remove files.
rmdir dirs	Remove empty directories.
tar [c][x][t][z][j][J] -f file.tar [files]	Create (c), extract (x), list table of (t) archive file, z for .gz, j for .bz2, J for .xz.
find directories expressions	Find files like -name name or -size +1000, etc.
grep search-string files	Find search-string in files.
ln -s file link	Create a symbolic link to a file.
ps [options]	Show current processes.
kill [-9] PID	Send signal to process (e.g. terminate it). Use <b>ps</b> for PID.
su - [username]	Become another user, e.g. root.
sudo command	Execute a command as root as normal user, see /etc/sudoers.
command > file	Overwrite file with output of command.
command >> file	Append output of command to file.
cmd1   cmd2	Use output of command 1 as input of command 2.
command < file	Use file as input for command.

<b>APT</b>	
apt update	Update packages listings from package repositories as listed in /etc/apt/sources.list. Required whenever that file or the contents of the repositories change.
apt search search-string	Search packages and descriptions for search-string.
apt list -a package-name	Show versions and archive areas of available packages.

<b>APT</b>	
apt show -a package-name	Show package information incl. description.
apt install package-names	Install packages from repositories with all dependencies.
apt upgrade	Install newest versions of all packages currently installed.
apt full-upgrade	Like <b>apt upgrade</b> , but with advanced conflict resolution.
apt remove package-names	Remove packages.
apt autoremove	Remove packages that no other packages depend on.
apt depends package-name	List all packages needed by the one given.
apt rdepends package-name	List all packages that need the one given.
apt-file update	Update content listings from package repositories, see <b>apt update</b> .
apt-file search file-name	Search packages for file.
apt-file list package-name	List contents of a package.
aptitude	Console interface to APT, needs aptitude.
synaptic	GUI interface to APT, needs synaptic.

<b>Dpkg</b>	
dpkg -l [names]	List packages.
dpkg -I pkg.deb	Show package information.
dpkg -c pkg.deb	List contents of package file.
dpkg -S filename	Show which package a file belongs to.
dpkg -i pkg.deb	Install package files.
dpkg -V [package-names]	Audit check sums of installed packages.
dpkg-divert [options] file	Override a package's version of a file.
dpkg --compare-versions v1 gt v2	Compare version numbers; view results with <b>echo \$?.</b>