



Debian Reference Card

Version 13 – Debian 13 ‘Trixie’ – 2025-04-13

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

Dpkg

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

The Network

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

Getting Help

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

Installation

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

Bugs

Bug Tracking at https://bugs. debian.org/	All about existing and fixed bugs.
--	---------------------------------------

Legal Notice

This document may be used under the terms of the GNU General Public License version 3 or higher. The license text can be found at [https://www.gnu.org/copyleft/
gpl.html](https://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html) and `/usr/share/common-licenses/GPL-3`.

Copyright © 2004, 2010 W. Martin Borgert

Copyright © 2016, 2019, 2023 Holger Wansing

Made by: <https://www.debian.org/doc/user-manuals#refcard>

Bugs	
Package specific	See https://bugs.debian.org/package-name/ , use wppp to ask for new packages.
reportbug	Report a bug by e-mail.
Reporting	Instructions at https://www.debian.org/Bugs/Reporting

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

Daemons and System	
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.

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

APT	
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	
apt search search-string	Search packages and descriptions for search-string.
apt list -a package-name	Show versions and archive areas of available packages.
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 apt upgrade , 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 apt update .
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.

Dpkg	
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 echo \$?.