

Man Pages

Whatever the newest user needs to know

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<https://newlug.sluug.org/>

Goals

- This will be a *survey* of **man pages**, within Linux Operating System Distributions and outside.
- Intended for newcomers, the true beginners.
- Some useful examples, certainly not everything.
- Some commands may require installation.
- We will first generally explore **man** available within the *command line terminal*, which will then lead us generally into the *graphical man* resources of the **LinuxMint MATE Desktop Environment**.

Man pages instructions

Aim towards enemy." -
instructions on U.S.
rocket launcher ~U.S.
instruction manual

topfamousquotes.com

POSIX

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/POSIX>

- "POSIX defines the application programming interface (API), along with command line shells and utility interfaces, for software compatibility with variants of Unix and other operating systems."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unix_shell

Users type commands into the shell.

- POSIX may not standardize **man** for new users. (**AFAIK**)

Not intuitive ~ User has to know commands.

Not intuitive with unix

Not intuitive with linux

CLI vs GUI

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Command-line_interface

- "A command-line interface or command language interpreter (CLI), also known as command-line user interface,... ...is a means of interacting with a computer program where the user (or client) issues commands to the program in the form of successive lines of text (command lines)."
- "Today, many end users rarely, if ever, use command-line interfaces and instead rely upon graphical user interfaces (GUI) and menu-driven interactions."

Commands as Help

- ★ `$ man` (without options will suggest that you specify one)
- ★ `$ man man`
- ★ `$ whatis man whatis`
 - `man (1)` - an interface to the on-line reference manuals
 - `man (7)` - macros to format man pages
 - `whatis (1)` - display one-line manual page descriptions
- ★ `$ whatis apropos` (another handy command)
 - `apropos (1)` - search the manual page names and descriptions
- ★ `$ apropos man` (overly helpful, pipe to less)
- ★ `$ whatis info pinfo`
 - `info (1)` - read Info documents
 - `info (5)` - readable online documentation
 - `pinfo (1)` - curses based lynx-style info browser

More Commands

- ★ `$ man`
- ★ `$ man man` (know about sections)
- ★ `$ man intro.1`
- ★ `$ man intro.2`
- ★ `$ man intro.3`
- ★ `$ man -a intro` (goes thru odd sequence)
- ★ `$ man xman`
- ★ `$ view /etc/manpath.config`
- ★ `$ man apropos`
- ★ `$ man -k apropos`
- ★ `$ man -K apropos`

More Commands

- ★ **\$ whatis info pinfo**

- info (1) - read Info documents

- info (5) - readable online documentation

- pinfo (1) - curses based lynx-style info browser (need to install)

- ★ **\$ man info**

- ★ **\$ info info** (hard to navigate, seems to use emacs keystrokes)

- ★ **\$ pinfo** (I prefer using pinfo, instead of info) (uses vi keystrokes)

- ★ **\$ pinfo pinfo**

- ★ **\$ pinfo bash**

- ★ **\$ pinfo builtins**

- ★ **\$ pinfo builtins**

CLI Summary

- **REMEMBER:**
 - \$ apropos (or man -k)
 - \$ aptitude
 - \$ info (or **pinfo**)
 - \$ man man
 - \$ **xman** (or gman)
 - \$ synaptic



Getting to the Graphical

...So, we have surveyed using the Command Line Interface.

**Now on to the Graphical,
But, first...**

Not Quite Graphical

From `curses` => `pcurses` => `ncurses` and `terminfo` and `termcap`

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ncurses>

<https://www.linuxjournal.com/content/getting-started-ncurses>

<https://invisible-island.net/ncurses/ncurses.faq.html>

★ \$ **whatis aptitude synaptic vim vimtutor**

aptitude (8) - high-level interface to the package manager

synaptic (8) - graphical management of software packages

vim (1) - Vi IMproved, a programmer's text editor

vimtutor (1) – The VIM Tutors

- \$ aptitude

- \$ synaptic

- ★ \$ vim (has internal help)

MANY OTHERS: lynx, mutt, emacs, htop, less, minicom, screen, tmux, vim

GUI lookback to CLI

- ★ \$ vimtutor (spend 30 minutes here to learn fundamental vim)
- ★ \$ whatis xman gman
 - xman (1) - Manual page display program for the X Window System
 - gman (1x) - GTK+ based front-end for man, a good replacement for **xman**.
- ★ \$ **xman**
- ★ \$ gman (NOTE: Broke on me today, had no time to troubleshoot)

More GUI Help

★ \$ whatis yelp

yelp (1) - browse system documentation

★ \$ yelp

- This is the GNOME Help Browser

Read The Friendly Manual



- RTFM (Read the Friendly Manual)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RTFM>
- The Linux Documentation Project
<http://TLDP.org/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_Documentation_Project
- The Linux man-pages project
<https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages>

St. Louis Unix Users Group

STL! / unix / usr / group

- **SLUUG Web Page**
 - <https://www.sluug.org/>
- **SLUUG Sponsored Resources**
 - ANNOUNCE email
 - DISCUSS email
 - Wiki
 - IRC (dormant)

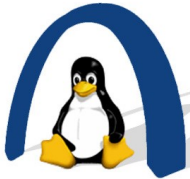
SLUUG Sponsored Groups

Loosely Affiliated Special Interest Groups



SLACC ~ Saint Louis Area Computer Club

<https://slacc.sluug.org/>



STLLUG ~ Saint Louis Linux User Group

<https://stllug.sluug.org/>



NEWLUG ~ Newcomer Linux User Group

<https://newlug.sluug.org/>

Help Getting Help

What are your questions?



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