

[howto](#), [find](#), [information](#), [commands](#), [man](#), [apropos](#), [info](#), [whatis](#), [help](#)

# find information about commands

Main sources for info and all parts of the operating system are:

- man - [man](#)
- info - [info](#)
- apropos
- whatis
- help (for Bash Builtins)
- Package documentation at `/usr/share/docs/<package>`



is likely to be forgotten:

```
<command> --help
```

## Introduction to the --help Option

Another important source of Linux documentation is use of the `-help` option.

Most commands have an available short description which can be viewed using the `-help` or the `-h` option along with the command or application. For example, to learn more about the `man` command, you can run the following command:

```
man --help
```

The `-help` option is useful as a quick reference and it displays information faster than the `man` or `info` pages.

## The help Command

Some popular commands (such as `echo`), when run in a bash command shell, silently run their own built-in versions of system programs or utilities, because it is more efficient to do so. To view a synopsis of these built-in commands, you can simply type `help`.

For these built-in commands, `help` performs the same basic function as the `-h` and `-help` arguments (which we will discuss shortly) perform for stand-alone programs.

## Online Resources

There are many places to access online Linux documentation, and a little bit of searching will get you buried in it. The following site has been well reviewed by other users of this course and offers a free, downloadable command line compendium under a Creative Commons license:

- LinuxCommand.org: <http://linuxcommand.org/tlcl.php>

You can also find very helpful documentation for each distribution. Each distribution has its own user-generated forums and wiki sections. Here are just a few links to such sources:

- Ubuntu: <https://help.ubuntu.com/>
- CentOS: <https://www.centos.org/docs/>
- OpenSUSE: <http://en.opensuse.org/Portal:Documentation>
- GENTOO: <http://www.gentoo.org/doc/en>

Moreover, you can use online search sites to locate helpful resources from all over the Internet, including blog posts, forum and mailing list posts, news articles, and so on.

From:  
<https://wiki.nanoscopic.de/> - **nanoscopic wiki**

Permanent link:  
[https://wiki.nanoscopic.de/doku.php/pages/howtos/linuxunix/find\\_documentation\\_about\\_commands?rev=1638379545](https://wiki.nanoscopic.de/doku.php/pages/howtos/linuxunix/find_documentation_about_commands?rev=1638379545)

Last update: **2021/12/01 17:25**

