Configuration

`/etc/`	All system configuration files are under directory `/etc/`.
nano `files`	Default text editor. If not present, try **emacs**, **vi**, **joe**.
webmin at `https://hostname:10000`	Browser interface to system configuration, access is defined in `/etc/webmin/miniserv.conf`.
CUPS at `http://hostname:631`	Browser interface to printing system.
dpkg-reconfigure `package-name`	Reconfigure a package, e.g. console-common (keyboard), locales (localisation).
update-alternatives `options`	Manage command alternatives.
update-grub	After installing a new kernel.
make-kpkg --initrd --revision=2:my.1.0 --rootcmd fakeroot --uc --us `kernel_image`	Build a kernel packages from sources, if a customised kernel is really needed, needs `kernel-package`.
m-a a-i module `kernel_image`	Create and install third-party modules (nvidia, ...), needs `module-assistant`.

Daemons and System

`/etc/init.d/file` restart	Restart a service, system daemon.
`/etc/init.d/file` stop	Stop a service, system daemon.
`/etc/init.d/file` start	Start a service, system daemon.
halt, reboot, poweroff	Halts, reboots, shuts down 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 [-d]`files`	Compress, uncompress files.
less `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] -f `file` .tar [`files`]	*C*reate, e*X*tract, list *T*able of archive file, *z*, *j* for `.gz`, `.bz2`.
find `directories expressions`	Find files like `-name` `name` or `-size` `+1000`, etc.
grep `search-string files`	Find search-string in files.
kill [`-9`]`number`	Send signal to process (e.g. terminate it).
ln -s `file link`	Create a symbolic link to a file.
ps [`options`]	Show current processes.
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-get update	Update packages listings from package repositories as listed in `/etc/apt/sources.list`. Run, if the contents of one of repositories, the file changed, or if unsure.
apt-cache search `search-string`	Search packages and descriptions for `search-string`.
apt-cache policy `package-names`	Show versions and priorities of available packages.
apt-cache show `package-names`	Show package information incl. description.
apt-cache showpkg `package-names`	Show package dependencies (needed packages).
apt-get install `package-names`	Install packages from repositories with all dependencies.
apt-get upgrade	Install newest versions of all packages currently installed.
apt-get dist-upgrade	Like **apt-get upgrade**, but with advanced conflict resolution.
apt-get remove `package-names`	Remove packages with all needed packages.
apt-cache depends `package-names`	List all packages needed by the given.
apt-cache rdepends `package-names`	List all packages that need the given.
apt-file update	Update content listings from package repositories, see **apt-get update**
apt-file search `file-name`	Search packages for file.
apt-file list `package-name`	List contents of a package.
auto-apt	Installs packages automatically if needed, can replace **apt-file**, needs `auto-apt`.
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.
deborphan	Show packages, on that no other packages depend (*orphans*), needs `deborphan`.
debsums	Audit check sums of installed packages, needs `debsums`.
dpkg-divert [options]*file*	Override a package's version of a file.
dpkg --compare-versions*v1* gt *v2*	Compare version numbers, check with **echo $?**.
dpkg-query -W --showformat=*format*	Query installed packages, format e.g. '${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

/sbin/ifconfig	Configure network interfaces.
/etc/network/	Network configuration files, most relevant are `interfaces` and `options`.
ifup, ifdown [*device*]	Start, stop network interfaces according to files above.
ssh -X *user@host*	Login at other machine.
scp *files user@host:path*	Copy files to other machine (and vice versa).

Web Server (Apache2)

/etc/apache2/	Configuration files.
/etc/apache2/ sites-enabled/ default	Defines default virtual host.
/etc/apache2/ mods-available/	Contains available modules files. To enable a module, create a symbolic link into /etc/apache2/mods-enabled/.

Database (PostgreSQL)

createdb	Create a new database.
dropdb	Remove a database.
createuser	Create a new database user.
dropuser	Remove a database user.
/etc/postgresql/ pg_hba.conf	Client access configuration.
ALTER USER name WITH PASSWORD 'password';	Change the password in the SQL console **psql**.

File and Print Server (Samba)

/etc/samba/smb. conf	Main configuration file.
smbclient	Browse SMB network resources, e.g. download, upload files.

Debian GNU/Linux Reference Card

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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.
Web documentation	Reference, manuals, FAQs, HOWTOs, etc. at http://www.debian.org/doc/
Mailing lists at http://lists.debian.org/	The community is always helpful, search for `users`.

Installation

Installer	All information about it at http://www.debian.org/devel/debian-installer/
CD images	Download from http://www.debian.org/distrib/
boot: expert	E.g. to set up the network w/o DHCP or using LILO instead of GRUB.
boot: linux26 or boot: expert26	Use Linux kernel 2.6 for installation.

Bugs

Bug Tracking at http://bugs.debian.org/	All about existing and fixed bugs.
Package specific	See http://bugs.debian.org/*package-name*/, use `wnpp` to ask for new packages.
reportbug	Report a bug by e-mail.
Reporting	Instructions at http://www.debian.org/Bugs/Reporting