

Linux: Bash Prompt, Add Color, DateTime

By Xah Lee. Date: 2012-04-17. Last updated: 2015-11-20.

Add Date/Time Stamp to Prompt

Shell Basics

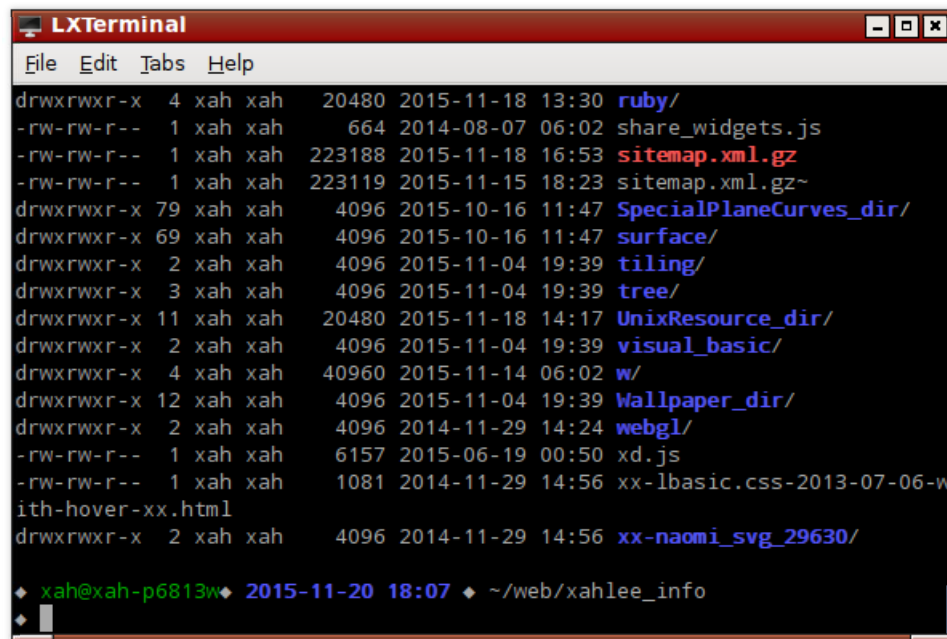
1. [Get System Info](#)
2. [Shell Basics](#)
3. [grep, cat, awk, uniq](#)
4. [sort](#)
5. [traverse dir: find, xargs](#)
6. [Compare Files/Dir: diff](#)
7. [dir size: du](#)
8. [View dir as a Tree](#)
9. [tar gzip bzip2 xz 7zip rar zip](#)
10. [wget, curl, GET, HEAD](#)
11. [Convert File Encoding](#)

sys admin

1. [Job Control](#)
2. [List Processes: ps](#)
3. [Monitor Processes: top](#)
4. [Monitor Processes: htop](#)
5. [How Much Memory is Free?](#)
6. [Users & Groups](#)
7. [File Permission System](#)
8. [Show Open Files: lsof](#)
9. [shutdown, sleep](#)
10. [Anti-Virus Software](#)

Bash, Terminal

1. [Bash Keybinding](#)
2. [Color Prompt, Timestamp](#)
3. [What's .bashrc, .profile, .bash_profile, ...?](#)
4. [How to use Virtual Console](#)
5. [Terminal Control Sequence Keys](#)
6. [Linux: Reset Terminal, Clear Screen History](#)
7. [tmux, remote server](#)



↑ bash prompt with color and date.

Here's how to add date/time stamp to your bash prompt. Type this in terminal:

```
PS1=' \u@\H ◆ \D{%Y-%m-%d} ◆ \A ◆ \w\n';
```

Here's what the escape means:

- `\u` = user.
- `\H` = host.
- `\D{%Y-%m-%d}` = date in "yyyy-mm-dd" format.
- `\A` = hour and minute in 24-hour "hh:mm" format.
- `\w` = path.

To make it permanent, put the line in `[~/].bashrc`.

[> see [What's the Difference Between .bashrc, .profile, .bash_profile, ...?](#)]

For basic bash prompt setting and parameters, see `man bash`, search for PS1. (type `[h]` for help.)

Color Bash Prompt

Example:

```
PS1=' \n◆ \[\e[0;32m\]\u@\H\[\e[m\]◆\[\e[1;34m\] \D{%Y-%m-%d} \A \[\e[m\]◆ \w\n◆ '
```

- Color start syntax: `\[\e[color\]`
- Color end syntax: `\[\e[m\]`

[back to Linux Tutorial](#) syntax: `\e[0;32m`

1. [man page tips](#)
2. [Emacs Info Keys](#) 
3. [BASH Shell Misc Tips](#)
4. [Log Terminal Session](#)

Linux Desktop

1. [How to Switch to LXDE, Xfce](#)
2. [Most Useful GUI Apps](#)
1. [Sync X11 Primary Selection and Clipboard](#)
2. [Set Default App](#)
3. [Commands for GUI](#)
4. [Move File to Trash by Command](#)
5. [Command to Update Software](#)
6. [Desktop GUI/Icon Locations](#)
7. [Disable Ubuntu Crash Report](#)
8. [Disable Ubuntu New Scrollbar](#)
1. [Linux: How to Upgrade Xfce](#)
2. [How to Stop Xfce from Loading Last Session](#)

Font

1. [Standard Fonts on Linuxes](#)
2. [Linux: How to Install Font](#)

here's the color syntax:

```
txtblk='\e[0;30m' # Black - Regular
txtred='\e[0;31m' # Red
txtgrn='\e[0;32m' # Green
txtylw='\e[0;33m' # Yellow
txtblu='\e[0;34m' # Blue
txtpur='\e[0;35m' # Purple
txtcyn='\e[0;36m' # Cyan
txtwht='\e[0;37m' # White
bldblk='\e[1;30m' # Black - Bold
bldred='\e[1;31m' # Red
bldgrn='\e[1;32m' # Green
bldylw='\e[1;33m' # Yellow
bldblu='\e[1;34m' # Blue
bldpur='\e[1;35m' # Purple
bldcyn='\e[1;36m' # Cyan
bldwht='\e[1;37m' # White
unkblk='\e[4;30m' # Black - Underline
undred='\e[4;31m' # Red
undgrn='\e[4;32m' # Green
undylw='\e[4;33m' # Yellow
undblu='\e[4;34m' # Blue
undpur='\e[4;35m' # Purple
undcyn='\e[4;36m' # Cyan
undwht='\e[4;37m' # White
bakblk='\e[40m' # Black - Background
bakred='\e[41m' # Red
bakgrn='\e[42m' # Green
bakylw='\e[43m' # Yellow
bakblu='\e[44m' # Blue
bakpur='\e[45m' # Purple
bakcyn='\e[46m' # Cyan
bakwht='\e[47m' # White
txtrst='\e[0m' # Text Reset
```

bash

Reference:

- [ANSI escape code](#)
- [*Color Bash Prompt*] 2012-08-25 By Archlinux Wiki. @ https://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/Color_Bash_Prompt

ISO Date/Time Format for ls

make **ls** display datetime stamp in ISO date/time format, like **2015-11-22**

```
alias l='ls -AlF --color --time-style=long-iso'
```

bash

- **-A** or **--almost-all** → do not list current directory **.** and parent directory **...**
- **-F** or **--classify** → append indicator (one of **{/, ->, *, =, |}**) to entries.
- **-l** → use a long listing format. That is, display perm, owner, group, date, etc.
[>see [Linux: File Permissions](#)]

What the indicator mean:

- **/** → directory
- **->** → [Symbolic link](#)
- ***** → executable
- **=** → [Unix domain socket](#)
- **|** → [Named pipe](#)

Linux Desktops in History

[back to Linux Tutorial](#)

? How to make bash not save duplicates in history?

```
# don't save duplicate lines or lines starting with space  
HISTCONTROL=ignoreboth
```

bash

See [man bash](#).

Mac OS X Add Color to ls Output

? How to add color to ls output on Mac OS X?

Mac OS X uses BSD's version of ls. Use the **-G** option for color output.

```
alias l='ls -G -al'
```

bash

See also:

- [Linux: Bash Shell Keybinding List](#)
- [Linux: Most Frequently Used Shell Commands](#)
- [What's the Difference Between .bashrc, .profile, .bash_profile, ...?](#)
- [Linux: Keyboard Layout, Keymapping, Keybinding, Tools](#) 
- [Linux: BASH Shell Misc Tips](#)

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