

BASH READLINE KEY BINDINGS

Version 3

BASH

Commands for Moving

beginning-of-line (C-a) – move to start of line
end-of-line (C-e) – move to end of line
forward-char (C-f) – forward one character
backward-char (C-b) – backward one character
forward-word (M-f) – move to end of current or next word
backward-word (M-b) – move to begin of current or previous word
clear-screen (C-l) – clear screen with current line at top
redraw-current-line – refresh current line

Commands for Changing Text

delete-char (C-d) – delete character under cursor
backward-delete-char (Rubout) – delete character behind cursor
forward-backward-delete-char – delete character under cursor, else behind cursor
quoted-insert (C-q, C-v) – add next character typed verbatim
tab-insert (C-v Tab) – insert tab character
self-insert (a, b, A, 1, !, ...) – insert character typed
transpose-chars (C-t) – exchange character behind cursor and character under cursor
transpose-words (M-t) – exchange word behind cursor and word under cursor
upcase-word (M-u) – uppercase current or next word
downcase-word (M-l) – lowercase current or next word
capitalize-word (M-c) – capitalize current or next word
overwrite-mode – toggle overwrite mode

Commands for Manipulating History

accept-line (Newline, Return) – accept line and add to history
next-history (C-n) – fetch next command from history
previous-history (C-p) – fetch previous command from history
beginning-of-history (M-<) – move to first line in history
end-of-history (M->) – move to last line in history
forward-search-history (C-s) – search forward through history
reverse-search-history (C-r) – search backward through history
non-incremental-forward-search-history (M-n) – search forward through history (non-incremental)
non-incremental-reverse-search-history (M-p) – search backward through history (non-incremental)
history-search-forward – search forward through history for string between begin of line and cursor
history-search-backward – search backward through history for string between begin of line and cursor
yank-nth-arg (M-C-y) – insert n-th argument of previous command at cursor (default: n is first arg.)
yank-last-arg (M-., M-_) – insert n-th argument of previous command at cursor (default: n is last arg.)
shell-expand-line (M-C-e) – perform expansion on line
history-expand-line (M-^) – perform history expansion on line
magic-space – perform history expansion on line and insert space
alias-expand-line – perform alias expansion on line
history-and-alias-expand-line – perform history and alias expansion on line
insert-last-argument (M-., M-_) – synonym for **yank-nth-arg**

operate-and-get-next (C-o) – execute current line and fetch next line from history for editing
edit-and-execute-command (C-x C-e) – invoke editor for current line, execute result as command

Numeric Arguments

digit-argument (M-0, M-1, ..., M--) – specify numeric argument
universal-argument – specify numeric argument

Keyboard Macros

start-kbd-macro (C-x () – start keyboard macro, storing typed characters
end-kbd-macro (C-x)) – end keyboard macro
call-last-kbd-macro (C-x e) – execute keyboard macro

Killing and Yanking

kill-line (C-k) – delete characters from cursor to end of line
backward-kill-line (C-x Rubout) – delete characters from cursor to begin of line
unix-line-discard (C-u) – delete characters from cursor to begin of line
kill-whole-line – delete all characters on current line
kill-word (M-d) – delete characters from cursor to end of word
backward-kill-word (M-Rubout) – delete word behind cursor
unix-word-rubout (C-w) – delete word behind cursor
unix-filename-rubout – delete word behind cursor using space and slash as separators
delete-horizontal-space (M-\) – delete whitespace around cursor
kill-region – delete characters in current region
copy-region-as-kill – copy characters in region to kill buffer
copy-backward-word – copy word behind cursor to kill buffer
copy-forward-word – copy word under cursor to kill buffer
yank (C-y) – insert top of kill ring at cursor
yank-pop (M-y) – rotate kill ring and insert top of kill ring at cursor

Completing

complete (Tab) – perform completion on text behind cursor
possible-completions (M-?) – list completions of text behind cursor
insert-completions (M-*) – insert all completions of text behind cursor
menu-complete – iterate through completions of text behind cursor
delete-char-or-list – like **possible-completions** if at end of line, else like **delete-char**
complete-filename (M-/) – perform filename completion on text behind cursor
possible-filename-completions (C-x /) – list filename completions of text behind cursor
complete-username (M-~) – perform username completion on text behind cursor
possible-username-completions (C-x ~) – list username completions of text behind cursor
complete-variable (M-\$) – perform variable name completion on text behind cursor

possible-variable-completions (C-x \$) – list variable name completions of text behind cursor
complete-hostname (M-@) – perform hostname completion on text behind cursor
possible-hostname-completions (C-x @) – list hostname completions of text behind cursor
complete-command (M-!) – perform command name completion on text behind cursor
possible-command-completions (C-x !) – list command name completions of text behind cursor
dynamic-complete-history (M-Tab) – perform completion on text behind cursor against history
complete-into-braces (M-{}) – perform filename completion on text behind cursor and insert in braces

Miscellaneous

re-read-init-file (C-x C-r) – read “inputrc” file
abort (C-g) – abort current editing command and ring bell
do-uppercase-version (M-x) – run command bound to uppercase character of *x*
prefix-meta (Esc) – metafy the next character typed
undo (C-., C-x C-u) – incremental undo
revert-line (M-r) – undo all changes on current line
tilde-expand (M-&) – perform tilde expansion on current word
set-mark (C-@, M-Space) – mark cursor position
exchange-point-and-mark (C-x C-x) – exchange cursor position and marked position
character-search (C-]) – forward move cursor to next occurrence of typed character
character-search-backward (M-C-]) – backward move cursor to previous occurrence of typed character
insert-comment (M-#) – comment current line and accept
glob-complete-word (M-g) – list filename completions of filename pattern behind cursor
glob-expand-word (C-x *) – insert filename completions of filename pattern behind cursor
glob-list-expansions (C-x g) – list filename completions of filename pattern behind cursor
dump-functions – print functions and their key bindings (readline)
dump-variables – print variables and their values (readline)
dump-macros – print macro key sequences and their strings (readline)
display-shell-version (C-x C-v) – print version info about bash

This reference card lists the *default* key bindings (Emacs-style) for readline commands under Bash. The key binding for a readline command is given in parentheses unless a key binding is not defined. Most key bindings are a combination of the Control or Meta key and another character. In such a case, the key binding begins with a capital “C” or capital “M” to indicate the Control key resp. the Meta key.

For key binding details, refer to the man-page of **bash**(1).

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