

CLI Magic: Daily aliases

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If you spend any time working at the shell, you probably use many GNU utilities. One thing that distinguishes the GNU versions from the classic Unix versions is that the GNU programs are rife with additional options. Some of these options are so useful you may want to create an alias so you can use them all the time without needing to do all the extra typing.

A shell alias is a simple way to create your own custom command. To make your aliases available every time you open a bash shell, add them to your `$HOME/.bashrc` file. For other shells, place them in the associated run control file. Many distributions include a basic set of aliases for all users. When I start working on a new system or get a new account, I immediately add my favorite aliases to my `.bashrc`.

To create an alias,

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