# How do you scroll up/down on the console of a Linux VM [closed]

Asked **11 years, 10 months ago**    Modified **3 years, 10 months ago**    Viewed **542k times**

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Closed 3 years ago.

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I recognize that  `Up` / `Down`  will give you the command history. But, how do you look at past output by scrolling up and down?

I have used  `Shift` + `Page Up` / `Page Down` ,  `Alt` + `Shift` + `Up` / `Down`  and  `Page Up` / `Page Down`  but none of these seem to work.

It is a Redhat Linux box.

`linux`   `terminal`   `rhel`

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edited Jan 18, 2021 at 21:34                    asked Mar 6, 2013 at 18:23

Stefan                                            Jane Doh
**28.5k** ● 4 ● 55 ● 85                          **2,903** ● 3 ● 17 ● 17

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Are you using an xterm (or equivalent)? – teppic Mar 6, 2013 at 18:41

1   no redhat enterprise linux – Jane Doh  Mar 6, 2013 at 18:54

I mean how are you accessing the shell. Which terminal emulator? – teppic Mar 6, 2013 at 18:55

1   I am just accessing the linux server from a VM console. – Jane Doh  Mar 6, 2013 at 19:07

1   Is that a vmware thing? If you're not using a regular terminal emulator, you won't have terminal functions like scrollback. – teppic Mar 6, 2013 at 20:50

## 15 Answers

Sorted by:  Highest score (default)  ▲▼

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**271**

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`SHIFT` + `Page Up` and `SHIFT` + `Page Down` . If it doesn't work try this and then it should:

Go the terminal program, and make sure
`Edit/Profile Preferences/Scrolling/Scrollback/Unlimited`
is checked.

The exact location of this option might be somewhere different though, I see that you are using Redhat.

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edited Jun 28, 2017 at 8:52          answered Mar 6, 2013 at 18:36

**LostMyGlasses**                    **meyumer**
**3,144** ● 21 ● 29               **5,064** ● 1 ● 18 ● 21

1   That would be a completely different question. OP was talking about stuff like gnome terminal
    – sdaffa23fdsf Jan 21, 2015 at 13:48 ✎

1   Cool, thanks! How would you go about setting the scrollback size from a native ('real') terminal?
    – starbeamrainbowlabs Jan 3, 2018 at 19:18

4   Only the first line of this answer is useful on the Linux console, the rest *might* be useful on a GUI terminal
    like gnome-terminal, though unlimited is not needed. – Gringo Suave Sep 20, 2018 at 16:22

    @GringoSuave gets it. – Daniel Baker Nov 12, 2018 at 21:59

    For those of you who didn't find it work, don't forget to turn `NumLock` off – Irfandy J. Jul 4, 2023 at 4:05

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**134**

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`Shift` + `Fn` + `UP` or `DOWN` on a Macbook will allow you to scroll.

Share   Improve this answer   Follow

edited Nov 1, 2016 at 2:45          answered Nov 16, 2013 at 14:52

**A.D.**                             **Lauren**
**4,614** ● 3 ● 41 ● 51           **1,536** ● 1 ● 12 ● 16

4   Works well on CentOS vm in Mac host – Miro Markaravanes Sep 10, 2014 at 0:20

1   Thank you. Works for me (Ubuntu Server inside VirtualBox VM on Mac OSX10.10) – Chris Jacob Dec 29,
    2014 at 23:39

1   Thanks for this Lauren, and thanks @anizzomc. I was on my macbook pro running Ubuntu server in virtual
    box and was having a heck of a time trying to figure this out. – CaseyB Feb 22, 2015 at 21:30 ✎

1   As the comments show, this is the only correct answer. Everyone else is talking about terminal emulators, which is not what the OP is asking. It is the only thing which worked for me on Ubuntu Server 14.04 emulation in Parallels on Macbook Pro – Roobie Nuby Jan 4, 2016 at 13:55

2   that's simply because your PageUp/PageDown keys are mapped to Fn+Up/Down, it won't work in other keyboards. And Fn is not a real key that the OS recognizes (except on Macs) – phuclv Jun 17, 2018 at 6:00

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**Alternative:** you can use the `less` command.

Type in console:

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**94**

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```
"your_command" | less
```

This will allow you to scroll with the up and down arrow keys.

Basically your output has been piped with the `less` command.

Share   Improve this answer   Follow        edited Mar 7, 2016 at 21:10        answered Jan 10, 2014 at 6:18

Drew Gaynor                              igauravsehrawat
**8,472** ● 5 ● 41 ● 53                **3,934** ● 4 ● 37 ● 47

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1   Interesting enough this was the only way that actually worked when using the shell on a FreeNAS install disk. – ZeroInputCtrl Jul 26, 2015 at 15:59

3   FreeNAS is FreeBSD based, and there you scroll differently. First you press `scroll lock` to get into paging mode and then use plain arrows and `page up`/`page down` to scroll. Press `scroll lock` again to get back to typing mode. – arrowd Jun 21, 2017 at 18:30

4   This is the only solution that works on headless servers. Other solutions are for servers with GUI. – learner Mar 26, 2020 at 10:30

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### ALTERNATIVE FOR LINE-BY-LINE SCROLLING

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**28**

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`Ctrl` + `Shift` + `Up Arrow` or `Down Arrow`

Unlike `Shift` + `Page Up` or `Page Down`, which scrolls the entire page, this will help with a smoother line-by-line scrolling, which is exactly what I was looking for.

Share   Improve this answer   Follow        edited Nov 15, 2016 at 7:37        answered Nov 15, 2016 at 6:25

jacefarm                                 Vicky Singh
**7,373** ● 6 ● 37 ● 46                **401** ● 4 ● 6

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2   I needed scrolling for a Chromebook which doesn't have `Page Up` and `Page Down`. Works well. – Sebastian Simon Dec 31, 2017 at 17:45

Believe this requires `CONFIG_VGACON_SOFT_SCROLLBACK` to be enabled on the linux console.
– [Gringo Suave](#) Sep 20, 2018 at 16:10 ✎

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**25**

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`SHIFT + Page Up` and `SHIFT + Page Down` are the correct keys to operate on the linux (virtual) console, but vmware console doesn't have those terminal settings. The virtual console has fixed scroll back size, it sounds like it's limited to video memory size according to this Linux virtual console *[Scrolling behavior documentation.](#)*

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answered Mar 8, 2013 at 14:04

[BenPen](#)
**392** ● 5 ● 15

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1    In order to prevent the Matthew Effect, from now on I will try to upvote the second and correct answer to encourage ppl to answer the questions who already have a correct answer. – [WesternGun](#) Dec 13, 2017 at 9:11 ✎

Does this mean that VMWare intercepts those keystrokes? – [Gringo Suave](#) Sep 20, 2018 at 16:24

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**19**

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Another alternative, that might be already installed on your system is to use GNU screen :

```
# This starts screen which adds basic window management in terminals
screen

# This starts the copy mode you can use to scroll
<CTRL-A> [

# Now use the arrows to scroll

# To exit copy mode, do
<ESC>
```

See man screen for much more useful options (multiple windows, ...)...

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answered Dec 8, 2016 at 8:48

[Joel.O](#)
**2,058** ● 4 ● 19 ● 26

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**14**

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Shift Pageup/End works for me.

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answered Apr 1, 2019 at 9:56

Rj [Rjj](#)
**141** ● 1 ● 3

1    This should be a comment. – wscourge Apr 1, 2019 at 10:15

12   I cant comment yet :( – Rjj Apr 9, 2019 at 8:37

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It seems as though this is not easily possible: The Arch Linux Wiki lists no way to do this on the console (while easily possible on the virtual terminal).

**11**

You could use tmux scrolling:

> `Ctrl` - `b` then `[` then you can use your normal navigation keys to scroll around (eg. `Up Arrow` or `PgDn` ). Press `q` to quit scroll mode.
>
> Alternatively you can press `Ctrl` - `b` `PgUp` to go directly into copy mode and scroll one page up (which is what it sounds like you will want most of the time)

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edited Jun 20, 2020 at 9:12

Community Bot
1 ● 1

answered Feb 10, 2016 at 11:11

serv-inc
**38.1k** ● 9 ● 189 ● 206

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VM Ubuntu on a Mac...fn + shift + up/down arrows

**8**

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answered Oct 4, 2017 at 3:21

duderweb2
**101** ● 1 ● 3

1    this is exactly the same as Lauren's answer above, but with the OS mentioned – phuclv Jul 3, 2018 at 10:54

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I ran into the same problem with VMWare workstation with Ubuntu guest, turns out VmWare doesn't support scrolling back up from the server view. What I did was to install x GUI, then run xterm from there. For some reason it runs the same, but lets you scroll the normal ways. Hope this helps future readers in VmWare virtual boxes.

**5**

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answered Jul 18, 2016 at 7:42

piie
**645** ● 1 ● 7 ● 17

2   Heavyweight solution. Another might be to install sshd and log in remotely. – Gringo Suave Sep 20, 2018 at 16:12

In some VPS hostings (like `linode`) you have to click `Ctrl+A` and then `ESC`. Exit with double `ESC` too.

**3**

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answered Jan 8, 2019 at 21:20

T.Todua
**56.3k** ● 22 ● 255 ● 259

`Fn` + `Up/Down` can scroll Terminal in Mac OS X 10.11

**2**

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edited Mar 25, 2019 at 13:23        answered Jan 6, 2016 at 12:00

barbsan                          likid1412
**3,458** ● 11 ● 23 ● 29          **1,129** ● 10 ● 15

Press the `Shift` key when scrolling the mouse up/down works for me when loggin in Ubuntu using Terminal `ssh` in Yosemite.

**1**

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answered Nov 9, 2015 at 4:56

ohho
**51.9k** ● 76 ● 261 ● 387

**PERSISTENT, longterm solution**

Add this line to your `~/.screenrc`

**1**

```
termcapinfo xterm* ti@:te@
```

Now you can create a screen, and scroll it up/down with your mouse; Like you normally do.

Share  Improve this answer  Follow          edited Mar 4, 2021 at 10:24          answered Apr 1, 2018 at 9:14

**Slake**
**2,150** ● 3 ● 25 ● 32

2    Where do you see OP talking about `screen` ? This should be removed. – Atralb Oct 26, 2020 at 22:01 ✎

2    @Atralb if you think an answer is inappropriate you can downvote or flag it ;) no offense Slake that solution was probably helpful for you, but indeed does not really fit here – xeruf Feb 25, 2021 at 17:00 ✎

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For some commands, such as mtr + (plus) and - (minus) work to scroll up and down.

Share  Improve this answer  Follow                                answered Mar 3, 2014 at 17:03

**0**
                                                                 **mcbluefire**
                                                                 **1** ● 1

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