

# Opensource.com: IRC Commands Cheat Sheet

BY VM (VICKY) BRASSEUR

Many open source project communities are hosted on Freenode IRC. Some of the instructions on this cheat sheet may be different on other servers.

## BASIC COMMANDS

**/msg NickServ REGISTER *password youremail@example.com***

Registers your IRC nickname with the NickServ service, protecting it from use by other people. This command will register the nickname you are using at the time you run the command. Doing this is only necessary once per nickname.

**/msg NickServ IDENTIFY *nick password***

Logs you in (i.e., “identifies” you) as *nick* using *password*. Identifying is optional—but advisable—as some commands require identification.

**/list**

Displays a list of all of the channels that currently exist on an IRC network.

**/join *channelname***

Joins you to the IRC channel *channelname*. If *channelname* does not exist yet, one will be created.

**/msg *nick***

Starts a private message session to *nick*.

**/query *nick***

An alternate form of **/msg *nick***.

**/me *action***

Displays a message in which you appear to perform the *action* (for example, */me sleeps*).

**/away *message***

Sets an away status on your nickname with the associated and optional *message* providing additional information (for example, “Back after lunch”). Sending the **/away** command again will remove the status.

**/who *nick***

Presents more information about *nick*. The information presented is limited to what *nick* chooses to share.

**/whois *nick***

Similar to the **/who** command.

**/leave *channelname***

Removes you from the IRC channel *channelname*. The *channelname* is optional if the command is run in the channel you want to leave.

**/quit**

Disconnects you from the IRC network.

**/help**

Used alone, presents a list of possible help topics. Followed by the name of one of those topics, presents additional usage information for the selected topic.

## INTERMEDIATE COMMANDS

**/motd**

Displays the message of the day (motd) for the current server/network.

**/topic**

Displays the topic for the current channel.

**/topic *topictext***

Sets the channel topic to *topictext*.

**/ignore *nick***

Ignore all messages (including private messages) from the specified nickname.

## ADVANCED COMMANDS

### GROUPING NICKNAMES

**/nick *nicktoaddtogroup***

Change to use the nickname you’d like to add to a group.

**/msg NickServ GROUP *registerednickname passwordforregisterednickname***

Add the currently used nickname to the group associated with your registered nickname.

### REGISTERING A CHANNEL

Be logged in on a registered nick.

Create the channel (see **/join**).

**/msg ChanServ REGISTER *channelname***

Registers *channelname* with the ChanServ service. *channelname* must include any leading hashmarks (**#** or **##**).

### CHANGING CHANNEL MODES

Not all networks support the same channel modes. Please review the documentation for your network before proceeding. For instance, these are the channel modes available on Freenode:

<http://freenode.net/kb/answer/channelmodes>

**/mode *channel***

View the existing modes set on the channel.

**/mode *channel +modecode***

Add the mode denoted by *modecode* to the channel.

**/mode *channel -modecode***

Remove the mode denoted by *modecode* from the channel.

### SETTING USER MODES

Not all networks support the same user modes. Please review the documentation for your network before proceeding. For instance, these are the user modes available on Freenode:

<http://freenode.net/kb/answer/usermodes>.

User modes apply per-session and will disappear when you log out. Most IRC clients can set modes at log-in time.

Unless you are a network admin, you cannot change modes on users/ nicknames other than your own.

**/mode *nick***

View the existing modes for that nickname.

**/mode *nick +modecode***

Add the mode denoted by *modecode* to the nickname.

**/mode *nick -modecode***

Remove the mode denoted by *modecode* from the nickname.

### ASSIGNING OPERATOR STATUS

Make sure the nickname you’d like to authorize is registered.

You must be an operator or owner of the channel in order to assign operator status to another user.

**/msg ChanServ OP *channel nick***

Assign operator status on channel *channel* to user *nick*.