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Linux realpath: Find Absolute Pathname For Given Command or File

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How do I find out the canonicalised absolute pathname for a given command or file under Linux operating systems?

You need to use the realpath command. It will converts each filename argument to an absolute pathname, which has no components that are symbolic links or the special . (current directory) or .. (parent directory) entries.

The **realpath command** expands all symbolic links and resolves references to /./, /../ and extra '/' characters in the null-terminated string named by path to produce a canonicalized absolute pathname. The resulting pathname is stored as a null-terminated string, up to a maximum of PATH_MAX butes, in the buffer pointed to by resolved_path. The resulting path will have no symbolic link, /./ or /../ components.

[1]

[2]

Syntax

The syntax is as follows:

```
realpath /path/to/file
realpath /path/to/command
```

Examples

Type the following command:

```
ls -l /etc/motd
```

Sample outputs:

```
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 13 2007-10-06 04:52 /etc/motd -> /var/run/motd
```

/etc/motd is a symbolic link, which points to ./var/run/motd. To verify this and to print real absolute path, enter:

```
realpath /etc/motd
```

Sample outputs:

```
/var/run/motd
```

The -s option

If option -s is used realpath only removes . and .. directories, but not symbolic links from filename.

```
realpath -s /path/to/file
```

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