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Linux / UNIX: Display file inode (index number)

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. How do I display file inode number using command line?

A. An inode is a data structure [2] on a Unix / Linux file system. An inode stores basic information about a regular file, directory, or other file system object. You can use following two commands to display an inode:

[a] **ls command** [3] : list directory contents

[b] **stat command** [4] : display file or file system status

[1]

ls command

Type ls command with -i (print the index number of each file) option:

```
$ ls -i /etc/passwd
```

Output:

```
752010 /etc/passwd
```

752010 is index number (inode) for /etc/passwd file.

stat command

```
$ stat /etc/passwd
```

Output:

```
  File: `/etc/passwd'
  Size: 2026          Blocks: 8          IO Block: 4096    regular file
Device: 811h/2065d      Inode: 752010      Links: 1
Access: (0644/-rw-r--r--)  Uid: (    0/    root)  Gid: (    0/    root)
Access: 2007-08-20 23:19:20.000000000 +0530
Modify: 2007-07-07 00:06:56.000000000 +0530
Change: 2007-07-07 00:06:56.000000000 +0530
```

You can use inode number to delete [5] or search a file.

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URL to article: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-print-inode-data-structure/**

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/file-system/**

[2] inode is a data structure: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/understanding-unixlinux-filesystem-inodes.html**

[3] ls command: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/ls-command-to-examining-the-filesystem/**

[4] stat command: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/display-file-or-file-system-status.html**

[5] delete: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/delete-remove-files-with-inode-number.html**