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Find command: Exclude / Ignore Files (Ignore Hidden .dot Files)

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Q. How do I ignore hidden .dot files while searching for files? How do I ignore or exclude certain files while running Linux / UNIX find command?

A. Find command support standard UNIX regex to match or exclude files. You can write complex queries easily with regex.

Find command and logical operators

[1]

Find any file whose name ends with either 'c' or 'asm', enter:

```
$ find . -type f \( -iname "*.c" -or -iname "*.asm" \)
```

The parentheses must be escaped with a backslash, "\(" and "\)", to prevent them from being interpreted as special shell characters. The -type f option force to only search files and not directories. The or operator either find .c or .asm file.

Understanding find command operators

Operators build a complex expression from tests and actions. The operators are, in order of decreasing precedence:

(expr)	Force precedence. True if expr is true
expr -not expr	True if expr is false. In some shells, it is necessary to protect the '!' from shell interpretation by quoting it.
expr1 -and expr2	And; expr2 is not evaluated if expr1 is false.
expr1 -or expr2	Or; expr2 is not evaluated if expr1 is true.

⚠ **WARNING!** The '-or', '-and', and '-not' operator are not available on all versions of find. Usually GNU find supports all options. Refer your local find command man page for more information.

How do I ignore hidden .dot files while searching for files?

Find *.txt file but ignore hidden .txt file such as .vimrc or .data.txt file:

```
$ find . -type f \( -iname "*.txt" ! -iname ".*" \)
```

Find all .dot files but ignore .htaccess file:

```
$ find . -type f \( -iname ".*" ! -iname ".htaccess" \)
```

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