Table Of Contents

nixCraft: Linux Tips, Hacks, Tutorials, And Ideas In Blog Format
http://www.cyberciti.biz/

Home > Faq > BASH Shell

Linux Bash Script Check File Existence

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

How do I check if a file called /tmp/foo.txt exists or not using a shell script under Linux operating systems?

You can use test command or [to check file types and compare values. The -f option check if FILE exists and is a regular file. If it exists it returns true value. You can test it as follows for a shell prompt itself:
$ [-f /tmp/foo.txt] && echo "File Exists" || echo "File not found"

[1]

Bash Script To Check If a File Exists

```bash
#!/bin/bash
file=$1

[ $# -eq 0 ] && { echo "Usage: $0 filename"; exit 999; }

if [ -f $file ];
then
 echo "File $file exists."
else
  echo "File $file does NOT exists."
fi
```

Run it as follows:

```
$ ./script.sh /etc/resolv.conf
```

File /etc/resolv.conf exists.

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our daily email newsletter or weekly newsletter to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via RSS/XML feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/**

URL to article: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-bash-script-check-file-existence/**

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/bash-shell/**