

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Examples 2

 To list only files and avoid all directories 2

 Search all directories 2

Execute command on all files 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [BASH Shell](#)

UNIX Find A File Command

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. I've just started to use Sun Solaris UNIX in our Labs. I'd like to know more about finding files from the shell prompt. How do I find a file under UNIX?

A. You need to use find command which is used to search files and directories under UNIX and Linux like operating systems. You can specify criteria while search files. If no criteria is set, it will returns all files below the current working directory. find also supports regex matching and other advanced options.

UNIX

[1]

Examples

Find all perl (*.pl) files in current directory:

```
$ find . -name '*.pl'
```

The . represent the current directory and the -name option specifies all pl (perl) files. The quotes avoid the shell expansion and it is necessary when you want to use wild card based search (without quotes the shell would replace *.pl with the list of files in the current directory).

To list only files and avoid all directories

```
$ find . -type f -name '*.pl'
```

Above command will only list files and will exclude directories, special files, pipes, symbolic links etc.

Search all directories

Search file called httpd.conf in all directories:

```
$ find / -type f -name httpd.conf
```

Generally this is a bad idea to look for files. This can take a considerable amount of time. It is recommended that you specify the directory name. For example look httpd.conf in /usr/local directory:

```
$ find /usr/local -type f -name httpd.conf
```

Execute command on all files

Run ls -l command on all *.c files to get extended information :

```
$ find . -name "*.c" -type f -exec ls -l {} \;
```

You can run almost all UNIX command on file. For example, modify all permissions of all files to 0700 only in ~/code directory:

```
$ find ~/code -exec chmod 0700 {} \;
```

Search for all files owned by a user called payal:

```
$ find . -user  
$ find . -user payal
```

Read find command man page for detailed information:

```
$ man find
```

See our previous articles about finding files:

- [Linux: Finding and Locating files with find command part # 1](#) ^[2]
- [Linux / UNIX: Finding and locating files with find command part # 2](#) ^[3]
- [Linux or Unix find and remove files with one find command on fly](#) ^[4]
- [Find and Delete File If It Is More Than One Hour Old in UNIX Shell](#) ^[5]

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/howto-find-a-file-under-unix/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/unix/>

[2] Linux: Finding and Locating files with find command part # 1 : <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-findinglocating-files-with-find-command-part-1.html>

[3] Linux / UNIX: Finding and locating files with find command part # 2 : <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-findinglocating-files-with-find-command-part-2.html>

[4] Linux or Unix find and remove files with one find command on fly : <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-unix-how-to-find-and-remove-files/>

[5] Find and Delete File If It Is More Than One Hour Old in UNIX Shell : <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/find-file-modification-time/>

Copyright © 2006-2010 [nixCraft](#). All rights reserved. This print / pdf version is for personal non-commercial use only. More details <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/copyright>.