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Linux / Unix: Checking Free Disk Space

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Q. How do I check free disk space in Linux or UNIX operating system? I've migrated from Windows NT to Linux and looking forward to get more information about free disk space.

A. Both Linux and UNIX offers two commands for checking out free disk space:

(a) df command : Report file system disk space usage

(b) du command : Estimate file space usage

[1]

df command examples - to check free disk space

Type df -h or df -k to list free disk space:

```
$ df -h
```

OR

```
$ df -k
```

Output:

```
Filesystem            Size    Used  Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/sdb1              20G    9.2G   9.6G  49% /
varrun               393M    144k   393M   1% /var/run
varlock              393M       0   393M   0% /var/lock
procbususb           393M    123k   393M   1% /proc/bus/usb
udev                 393M    123k   393M   1% /dev
devshm               393M       0   393M   0% /dev/shm
lrm                  393M     35M   359M   9% /lib/modules/2.6.20-15-generic/volatile
/dev/sdb5             29G    5.4G    22G  20% /media/docs
/dev/sdb3             30G    5.9G    23G  21% /media/isomp3s
/dev/sda1            8.5G    4.3G   4.3G  51% /media/xp1
/dev/sda2             12G    6.5G   5.2G  56% /media/xp2
/dev/sdc1             40G    3.1G    35G   9% /media/backup
```

he df utility displays statistics about the amount of free disk space on the specified file system or on the file system of which file is a part. Values are displayed in 512-byte per block counts. -H option is called as "Human-readable" output. It use unit suffixes: Byte, Kilobyte, Megabyte, Gigabyte, Terabyte and Petabyte in order to reduce the number of digits to four or fewer using base 10 for sizes i.e. you see 30G (30 Gigabyte).

du command examples

du shows how much space one ore more files or directories is using.

```
$ du -sh
```

103M

-s option summarize the space a directory is using and -h option provides "Human-readable" output.

GUI program

Above programs are good if GUI is not installed or you are working with remote system over ssh. Linux / UNIX comes with KDE and Gnome desktop system. You will find Free Disk Space Applet located under GUI menus.

See also

1. [Shell script to watch the disk space](#) [2]
2. [Why command df and du reports different output?](#) [3]

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[2] Shell script to watch the disk space: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/shell-script-to-watch-the-disk-space.html**
[3] Why command df and du reports different output?: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/freebsd-why-command-df-and-du-reports-different-output.html**