

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Display or list all directories 2

Display or list only files 2

Task: Create aliases to save time 2

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

How to: Linux or UNIX List just directories or directory names

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Q. How do I list just directory names under Linux?

A. Under Linux or UNIX use `ls` command to list files and directories. However `ls` does not have an option to list only directories. You can use combination of `ls` and `grep` to list directory names only.

Display or list all directories

Type the following command:

```
$ ls -l | egrep `^d`
```

Display or list only files

Type the following command:

```
$ ls -l | egrep -v `^d`
```

`grep` command used to searches input. It will filter out directories name by matching first character `d`. To reverse effect (just to display files) you need to pass `-v` option. It invert the sense of matching, to select non-matching lines.

Task: Create aliases to save time

You can create two aliases as follows to list only directories and files.

```
alias lf="ls -l | egrep -v `^d`"
alias ldir="ls -l | egrep `^d`"
```

Put above two aliases in your bash shell startup file:

```
$ cd
$ vi .bash_profile
```

Append two lines:

```
alias lf="ls -l | egrep -v `^d`"
alias ldir="ls -l | egrep `^d`"
```

Save and close the file.

Now just type `lf` - to list files and `ldir` - to list directories only:

```
$ cd /etc
$ lf
```

Output:

```
-rw-r--r--  1 root root      2149 2006-09-04 23:25 adduser.conf
-rw-r--r--  1 root root         44 2006-09-29 05:11 adjtime
-rw-r--r--  1 root root      197 2006-09-04 23:48 aliases
-rw-----  1 root root      144 2002-01-18 13:43 at.deny
-rw-r--r--  1 root root      162 2006-09-22 23:24 aumixrc
-rw-r--r--  1 root root        28 2006-09-22 23:24 aumixrc1
....
..
```

```
....
```

List directory names only:

```
$ cd /etc
$ ldir
```

Output:

```
drwxr-xr-x  4 root root      4096 2006-09-22 16:41 alsa
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root      4096 2006-09-20 20:59 alternatives
drwxr-xr-x  6 root root      4096 2006-09-22 16:41 apm
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root      4096 2006-09-07 02:51 apt
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root      4096 2006-09-08 01:46 bash_completion.d
....
.....
.
```

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