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Types of Files

There are a limited number of basic file types, each of which are displayed in the following directory listing:

```
 1   $ ls -lF
 2   total 8
 3   brw-r--r-- 1 coop coop 200, 0 Mar  9 15:07 a_block_device_node
 4   crw-r--r-- 1 coop coop 200, 0 Mar  9 15:06 a_character_device_node
 5   drwxrwxr-x 2 coop coop   4096 Mar  9 15:05 a_directory/
 6   prw-rw-r-- 1 coop coop      0 Mar  9 15:04 a_fifo|
 7   -rw-rw-r-- 1 coop coop   1601 Mar  9 15:04 a_file
 8   lrwxrwxrwx 1 coop coop      4 Mar  9 15:06 a_symbolic_link_to_directory -> /usr/
 9   lrwxrwxrwx 1 coop coop      6 Mar  9 15:10 a_symbolic_link_to_a_file -> a_file
10   srwxrwxr-x 1 coop coop      0 Mar  9 15:09 mysock=
```

The first character in the listing shows the type of file:

Character	Type
-	Normal File
d	Directory
l	Symbolic link
p	Named pipe (FIFO)
s	Unix domain socket
b	Block device node
c	Character device node

The **file** utility program can be used to ascertain file types, as in:

```
 1   $ file *
 2
 3   acpitool:              ELF 64-bit LSB executable, AMD x86-64, version 1 (SYSV),
 4                               for GNU/Linux 2.6.9, dynamically linked
```