

## 4.9. /usr/local : Local hierarchy

3-3 minutes

### 4.9.1. Purpose

The `/usr/local` hierarchy is for use by the system administrator when installing software locally. It needs to be safe from being overwritten when the system software is updated. It may be used for programs and data that are shareable amongst a group of hosts, but not found in `/usr`.

Locally installed software must be placed within `/usr/local` rather than `/usr` unless it is being installed to replace or upgrade software in `/usr`. <sup>[28]</sup>

### 4.9.2. Requirements

The following directories, or symbolic links to directories, must be in `/usr/local`

Directory	Description
bin	Local binaries
etc	Host-specific system configuration for local binaries
games	Local game binaries
include	Local C header files
lib	Local libraries
man	Local online manuals
sbin	Local system binaries
share	Local architecture-independent hierarchy
src	Local source code

No other directories, except those listed below, may be in `/usr/local` after first installing a FHS-compliant system.

### 4.9.3. Specific Options

If directories `/lib<qual>` or `/usr/lib<qual>` exist, the equivalent directories must also exist in `/usr/local`.

`/usr/local/etc` may be a symbolic link to `/etc/local`.

### Rationale

The consistency of `/usr/local/etc` is beneficial to installers, and is already used in other systems. As all of `/usr/local` needs to be backed up to reproduce a system, it introduces no additional maintenance overhead, but a symlink to `/etc/local` is suitable if systems want all their configuration under one hierarchy.

Note that `/usr/etc` is still not allowed: programs in `/usr` should place configuration files in `/etc`.

If the directory `/usr/share/color` exists as specified in this document, then the directory `/usr/local/share/color` must also exist, governed by the same rules as `/usr/share/color`.

### Rationale

This usage allows the sysadmin a place to install color profiles manually when necessary.

### 4.9.4. /usr/local/share : Local architecture-independent hierarchy

The requirements for the contents of this directory are the same as for `/usr/share`.

<sup>[28]</sup> Software placed in `/` or `/usr` may be overwritten by system upgrades (though we recommend that distributions do not overwrite data in `/etc` under these circumstances). For this reason, local software must not be placed outside of `/usr/local` without good reason.