

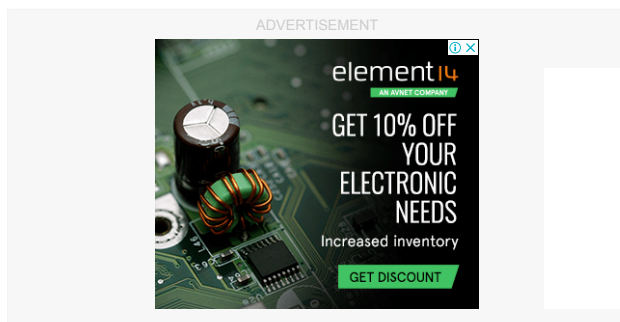


## Linux / UNIX find the smallest directories or files in current directory

Author: Vivek Gite • Last updated: July 31, 2007 • [0 comments](#)

**Q.** How do I list or find the smallest directories or files in the current directory under Linux or UNIX like operating system?

# UNIX



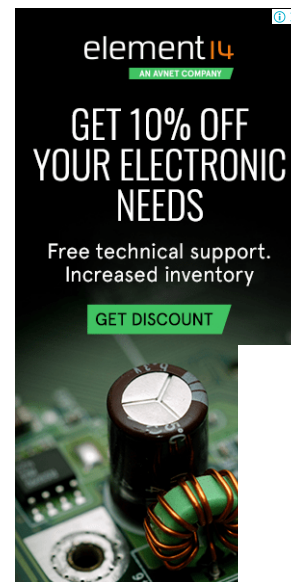
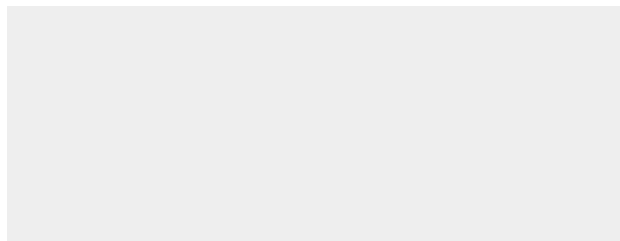
**A.** There is no direct command exists for this task. However by using shell pipes and combination of other commands one can produced the desired result.

### Task: Display list of smallest files

You need to use ls command and pass the option -l (long format) -S (sort) -r (in reverse order), enter:

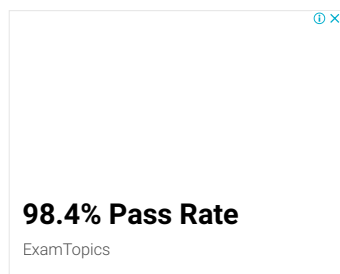
```
$ ls -lSr
$ ls -lSr
$ ls -lSr | head
$ ls -lSr | head -5
```

Output:



SEARCH

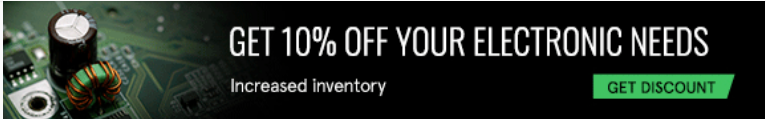
To search, type & hit enter...



### FEATURED ARTICLES

**1** [30 Cool Open Source Software I Discovered in 2013](#)

**2** [30 Handy Bash Shell Aliases For Linux / Unix / Mac OS X](#)



```
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root      10 Jul 10 08:50 rc3.d -> rc.d/rc3.d
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root      10 Jul 10 08:50 rc2.d -> rc.d/rc2.d
```

### Task: Display list of smallest directories

You need to use du command to display sorted (-S option) output. Use pipe to send du command output to sort command for sorting purpose:

```
$ du -S . | sort -n
$ du -S . | sort -n | head -10
```

Output:

```
du -S . | sort -n | head -10
4      ./lighttpd/ssl
4      ./monit.d
8      ./acpi
8      ./acpi/actions
8      ./alchemist
8      ./alchemist/namespace
8      ./alternatives
8      ./desktop-profiles
8      ./dev.d
8      ./dev.d/default
```

### Checkouts made easier, quicker

Read the man page of ls, sort and du for more options:

```
man ls
man du
man sort
```

About the author: Vivek Gite is the founder of nixCraft, the oldest running blog about Linux and open source. He wrote more than 7k+ posts and helped numerous readers to master IT

4 25 PHP Security Best Practices For Linux SysAdmins

5 30 Linux System Monitoring Tools Every SysAdmin Should Know

6 40 Linux Server Hardening Security Tips

7 Linux: 25 Iptables Netfilter Firewall Examples For New SysAdmins

8 Top 20 OpenSSH Server Best Security Practices

9 Top 25 Nginx Web Server Best Security Practices

10 My 10 UNIX Command Line Mistakes

A promotional banner for a "Bumper Sale". It features a light blue background with a white shoe icon in the top right corner. The text "Bumper Sale. Factory Price" is in bold. Below it, in smaller text, is "Buy Shoes Direct from Factory. For Factory Price. At Lowest Price Ever. Or for Today".

SIGN UP FOR MY NEWSLETTER

Get the latest tutorials on Linux, SysAdmin and Open Source topics in your INBOX. It's free.

SIGN UP



→ [Linux shell scripting tutorial](#)

→ [RSS/Feed](#)

→ [About nixCraft](#)

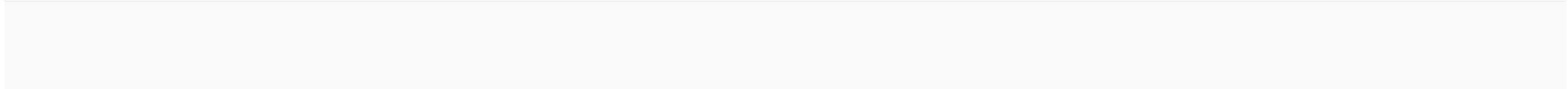
 To search, type & hit enter...

Related Tutorials

-  [Linux / UNIX: Bash Find And Delete All Hidden Files...](#)
-  [Linux / Unix: Find Hidden Directories, Files and Folders](#)
-  [Linux / Unix: Find and Delete All Empty Directories & Files](#)
-  [How To Find Largest Top 10 Files and Directories On Linux /...](#)
-  [Linux / UNIX: Print Current Working Directory with pwd...](#)
-  [Linux / Unix Shell Script: Get The Current Directory](#)
-  [Linux / UNIX List Just Directories Or Directory Names](#)
-  [Checkouts made easier, quicker](#)  
Google Maps Platform

Category	List of Unix and Linux commands
Ansible	<a href="#">Check version</a> • <a href="#">Fedora</a> • <a href="#">FreeBSD</a> • <a href="#">Linux</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 18.04</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu</a> • <a href="#">macOS</a>
Backup Management	<a href="#">Debian/Ubuntu</a> • <a href="#">FreeBSD</a> • <a href="#">RHEL</a>
Database Server	<a href="#">Backup MySQL server</a> • <a href="#">MariaDB Galera cluster</a> • <a href="#">MariaDB TLS/SSL</a> • <a href="#">MariaDB replication</a> • <a href="#">MySQL Server</a> • <a href="#">MySQL remote access</a>
Download managers	<a href="#">wget</a>
Driver Management	<a href="#">Linux Nvidia driver</a> • <a href="#">lsmod</a>
Documentation	<a href="#">help</a> • <a href="#">mandb</a> • <a href="#">man</a> • <a href="#">pinfo</a>
Disk Management	<a href="#">df</a> • <a href="#">duf</a> • <a href="#">ncdu</a> • <a href="#">pydf</a>





	<a href="#">18.04</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 20.04</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 24.04</a>
KVM Virtualization	<a href="#">CentOS/RHEL 7</a> • <a href="#">CentOS/RHEL 8</a> • <a href="#">Debian 9/10/11</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 20.04</a>
Linux Desktop apps	<a href="#">Chrome</a> • <a href="#">Chromium</a> • <a href="#">GIMP</a> • <a href="#">Skype</a> • <a href="#">Spotify</a> • <a href="#">VLC 3</a>
LXD	<a href="#">Backups</a> • <a href="#">CentOS/RHEL</a> • <a href="#">Fedora</a> • <a href="#">Mount dir</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 20.04</a>
Modern utilities	<a href="#">bat</a> • <a href="#">exa</a>
Network Management	<a href="#">Monitoring tools</a> • <a href="#">Network services</a> • <a href="#">RHEL static IP</a> • <a href="#">Restart network interface</a> • <a href="#">nmcli</a>
Network Utilities	<a href="#">NetHogs</a> • <a href="#">dig</a> • <a href="#">host</a> • <a href="#">ip</a> • <a href="#">nmap</a> • <a href="#">ping</a>
OpenVPN	<a href="#">CentOS 7</a> • <a href="#">CentOS 8</a> • <a href="#">Debian 10</a> • <a href="#">Debian 11</a> • <a href="#">Debian 8/9</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 18.04</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 20.04</a>
Power Management	<a href="#">upower</a>
Package Manager	<a href="#">apk</a> • <a href="#">apt-get</a> • <a href="#">apt</a> • <a href="#">yum</a>
Processes Management	<a href="#">bg</a> • <a href="#">chroot</a> • <a href="#">cron</a> • <a href="#">disown</a> • <a href="#">fg</a> • <a href="#">glances</a> • <a href="#">gtop</a> • <a href="#">iotop</a> • <a href="#">jobs</a> • <a href="#">killall</a> • <a href="#">kill</a> • <a href="#">pidof</a> • <a href="#">pstree</a> • <a href="#">pwdx</a> • <a href="#">time</a> • <a href="#">vtop</a>
Searching	<a href="#">ag</a> • <a href="#">egrep</a> • <a href="#">grep</a> • <a href="#">whereis</a> • <a href="#">which</a>
Shell builtins	<a href="#">compgen</a> • <a href="#">echo</a> • <a href="#">printf</a>
System Management	<a href="#">reboot</a> • <a href="#">shutdown</a>
Terminal/ssh	<a href="#">sshpass</a> • <a href="#">tty</a>
Text processing	<a href="#">cut</a> • <a href="#">rev</a>
Text Editor	<a href="#">6 Text editors</a> • <a href="#">Save and exit vim</a>
User Environment	<a href="#">exit</a> • <a href="#">who</a>
User Information	<a href="#">groups</a> • <a href="#">id</a> • <a href="#">lastcomm</a> • <a href="#">last</a> • <a href="#">lid/libuser-lid</a> • <a href="#">logname</a> • <a href="#">members</a> • <a href="#">users</a> • <a href="#">whoami</a> • <a href="#">w</a>
User Management	<a href="#">/etc/group</a> • <a href="#">/etc/passwd</a> • <a href="#">/etc/shadow</a> • <a href="#">chsh</a>
Web Server	<a href="#">Apache</a> • <a href="#">Let's Encrypt certificate</a> • <a href="#">Lighttpd</a> • <a href="#">Nginx Security</a> • <a href="#">Nginx</a>
WireGuard VPN	<a href="#">Alpine</a> • <a href="#">Amazon Linux</a> • <a href="#">CentOS 8</a> • <a href="#">Debian 10</a> • <a href="#">Firewall</a> • <a href="#">Ubuntu 20.04</a> • <a href="#">qrencode</a>

0 comments... [add one](#) ↓

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked \*

Comment \*



**Name****Email****Website**

Use `HTML <pre>...</pre>` for code samples. Your comment will appear only after approval by the site admin.

Next FAQ: [Linux / UNIX: Device files](#)

Previous FAQ: [Linux / UNIX – Display the permissions of a file](#)