

Grep cheatsheet

This cheat sheet is intended to be a quick reminder for the main concepts involved in using the command line program grep and assumes you already understand its usage.

Getting Started

Usage	Option examples
Search standard output (i.e. a stream of text)	
<code>\$ grep [options] search_string</code>	
Search for an exact string in file:	
<code>\$ grep [options] search_string path/to/file</code>	
Print lines in myfile.txt containing the string "mellon"	
<code>\$ grep 'mellon' myfile.txt</code>	
Wildcards are accepted in filename.	
<code>-i</code> <code>grep -i ^DA demo.txt</code>	Forgets about case sensitivity
<code>-w</code> <code>grep -w "of" demo.txt</code>	Search only for the full word
<code>-A</code> <code>grep -A 3 'Exception' error.log</code>	Display 3 lines after matching string
<code>-B</code> <code>grep -B 4 'Exception' error.log</code>	Display 4 lines before matching string
<code>-C</code> <code>grep -C 5 'Exception' error.log</code>	Display 5 lines around matching string
<code>-r</code> <code>grep -r 'quickref.me' /var/log/nginx/</code>	Recursive search (within subdirs)
<code>-v</code> <code>grep -v 'warning' /var/log/syslog</code>	Return all lines which don't match the pattern
<code>-e</code> <code>grep -e '^al' filename</code>	Use regex (lines starting with 'al')
<code>-E</code> <code>grep -E 'ja(s)cks)on' filename</code>	Extended regex (lines containing jason or jackson)
<code>-c</code> <code>grep -c 'error' /var/log/syslog</code>	Count the number of matches
<code>-l</code> <code>grep -l 'robot' /var/log/*</code>	Print the name of the file(s) of matches
<code>-o</code> <code>grep -o search_string filename</code>	Only show the matching part of the string
<code>-n</code> <code>grep -n "go" demo.txt</code>	Show the line numbers of the matches

Grep regular expressions

Refer	Wildcards	Quantifiers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regex syntax (quickref.me)• Regex examples (quickref.me) <p>Please refer to the full version of the regex cheat sheet for more complex requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><code>.</code> Any character.<code>?</code> Optional and can only occur once.<code>*</code> Optional and can occur more than once.<code>+</code> Required and can occur more than once.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><code>{n}</code> Previous item appears exactly n times.<code>{n,}</code> Previous item appears n times or more.<code>{,m}</code> Previous item appears n times maximum.<code>{n,m}</code> Previous item appears between n and m times.
POSIX	Character	Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><code>[[:alpha:]]</code> Any lower and upper case letter.<code>[[:digit:]]</code> Any number.<code>[[:alnum:]]</code> Any lower and upper case letter or digit.<code>[[:space:]]</code> Any whitespace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><code>[A-Za-z]</code> Any lower and upper case letter.<code>[0-9]</code> Any number.<code>[0-9A-Za-z]</code> Any lower and upper case letter or digit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><code>^</code> Beginning of line.<code>\$</code> End of line.<code>^\$</code> Empty line.<code>\<</code> Start of word.<code>\></code> End of word.

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