

The Swiss File Knife Booklet



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SFK Booklet Extended Content

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All tree walking commands support file selection this way:

1. short format with ONE directory tree and MANY file name patterns:
`src1dir .cpp .hpp .xml bigbar !footmp`
2. short format with a list of explicite file names:
`letter1.txt revenues9.xls report3\turnover5.ppt`
3. long format with MANY dir trees and file masks PER dir tree:
`-dir src1 src2 !src\save -file foosys .cpp -dir bin5 -file .exe`

For detailed help on file selection, type `"sfk help select"`.

* and ? wildcards are supported within filenames. "foo" is interpreted as "*foo*", so you can leave out * completely to search

a part of a name. For name start comparison, say "\foo" (finds foo.txt but not anyfoo.txt).

When you type a folder name by default this means "take all files".

<code>sfk list mydir</code>	lists ALL files of mydir, no * needed.
<code>sfk list mydir .cpp .hpp</code>	lists SOME files of mydir, by extension.
<code>sfk list mydir !.cfg</code>	lists all files of mydir EXCEPT .cfg

general options:

- tracesel tells which files and/or directories are included or excluded, and why (due to which user-supplied mask).
- nosub do not process files within subdirectories.
- nocol before any command switches off color output.
- quiet or -nohead shows less output on some commands.
- hidden includes hidden and system files and dirs.

For detailed help on all options, type `"sfk help options"`.

beware of Shell Command Characters.

command parameters containing characters `< > | ! &` must be surrounded by quotes `"`. type `"sfk filter"` for details and examples.

WRONG COLORS? Use one of:

set SFK_COLORS=theme:black	for DARK backgrounds
set SFK_COLORS=theme:white	for BRIGHT backgrounds
see also <code>"sfk help colors"</code>	

type <code>"sfk ask word1 word2 ..."</code>	to search ALL help text for words.
type <code>"sfk dumphelp"</code>	to print ALL help text.

This is the SFK for Windows documentation.

Under Linux/Mac, change:

<code>\</code> to <code>/</code>	within path names
<code>!</code> to <code>:</code>	to exclude things
<code>\$</code> to <code>#</code>	to mark run parameters
<code>*</code> to <code>%</code>	to use wildcards without quotes

```
sfk list [-time] [-size|-size=digits] [...] dir [mask]
sfk select -dir dir1 dir2 -file .ext1 .ext2 !.ext3 [...]
```

list all or just selected files from a directory tree.
select is the same, but it ignores command chaining input.

options:

-time	show date and modification time
-flattime	show date and time in a more compact format
-tab	separate columns by tab characters, not blanks
-size[=n]	show size of files [n characters wide]
-stat	show statistics (number of files, dirs, bytes) and tell if hidden files or dirs were skipped.
-withdirs	list also directories
-justdirs	list just directories
-hidden	list also hidden or system files
-arc	list contents of .zip .jar .ear etc. archives and also .gz, .bz2, .tar, .tar.gz and .tar.bz2 as deep as possible, including nested archives. type "sfk help opt" for supported file extensions.
-qarc	quick list archives, lists only archive entries at the top level, skipping nested archives.
-sort[=n]	sort by name, list all or last n files
-sortrev	sort by name, in reverse order
-late[=n]	sort by time, list latest [n] files last
-old[=n]	sort by time, list oldest [n] files last
-big[=n]	sort by size, list biggest [n] files last
-small[=n]	sort by size, list smallest [n] files last
-minsize=s	list only files >= size, like 10b or 100k
-maxsize=s	list only files <= size, like 10m or 4g b=bytes k=kbytes m=megabytes g=gigabytes
-late=all	sort by time, list all files
-notime	don't list time, after -late or -old
-nosize	don't list size, after -big or -small
-pure	pure list of filenames, leave out time, size, headline or statistics.
-quot	surround filenames by double quotes. needed when post-processing filename lists containing blanks.
-quiet	do not show the "scan" progress information
-since	list only files since this timestamp, e.g. "2006-01-31 12:15:59" or 20060131121559 2006-01-31 or 20060131

today : files changed since midnight of today
1d : changed since 1 day, i.e. not counting
from midnight, but 24 hours into the past
5h, 30m, 10s : 5 hours, 30 minutes, 10 seconds.

-before select files modified before that timestamp.
-today short replacement for "-since today".
-usectime use or list creation time instead of modification time.
may not be available on some filesystems.
-utc or -gmt lists UTC/GMT time instead of local time.
-sincedir compare against another directory, list files that
or -sd have been added, have different time, or content.
does not list files which have been removed.
-sinceadd like -sincedir, list only added files.
-sincdif like -sincedir, list only changed files.
does not list files with diff. time but same content.
does not list added files.
-sincechg list files with different content, and added files.
or -sc does not list files with diff. time but same content.
-relnames list filenames relative to specified directory(s),
i.e. strip root directory names at the beginning.
-tofile x write all names directly to file x (using less memory
than the chain command +tofile x).
-maxfiles=n list a maximum of n files only.
-fileoff[set]=n from all selected files, list only a subset,
starting at index n. first file has index 0.

important details of file name / extension selection:

- when specifying a filename pattern beginning with a dot "."
and no wildcard, only files with this extension are selected.
- otherwise the pattern is searched anywhere within the filename.
to force a filename start comparison, say \pattern (with slash).
- filename means relative filename, not directory or path name.

command chaining difference between list and select:

+list accepts files from previous commands. +select ignores them,
allowing scripts to run many independent selects in one chain.

no default archive content processing:

.zip .jar .tar .tgz .bz2 contents are NOT listed by default,
as it is not desirable if you just want a quick dir tree overview.
specify -arc or -qarc to activate archive content listing.
type "sfk help opt" to list all supported archive extensions.

aliases:

sfk dir	same as "sfk list -stat".
sfk select	same as list, but ignoring chain input.
sfk larc	same as "sfk list -arc".
sfk late	same as "sfk list -late".

see also:

sfk help select	the sfk file selection syntax.
sfk help opt	for further general options.
sfk stat	to list directory tree sizes.
sfk filetype	list all times of a file.

examples:

sfk list .
list all files of current directory and all subdirectories.

sfk list mydir !.bak !.tmp.txt
list all files within mydir, except .bak and .tmp.txt files.

sfk list -dir . -file foo .htm .java*
this will find and list the following sample filenames:
 thefoobar.dat - matches anywhere-pattern "foo"
 biginfo.htm - matches exact extension ".htm"
 test.java.9.15 - matches anywhere-pattern ".java*"
the command will NOT list the following sample filenames:
 foosys\thebar.dat - pattern must match filename, not path.
 biginfo.html - does not match extension ".htm"

sfk list -dir mydir !tmp !\save\ -file .txt
list all .txt files within mydir, excluding all sub folders having "tmp" in their name, or called exactly "save".

sfk alias list = sfk list -noop
after this, just typing "list" lists the current directory.

sfk list -dir src1 -file .cpp -dir src2 -file .hpp
list .cpp files from src1, .hpp files from src2.

sfk list -dir src "*examples*"
list contents of all directories having a name with "examples", located somewhere below src. note that "*examples*" defines a path mask, whereas "examples" would be another root directory. under linux, patterns with a * wildcard MUST have quotes "".

sfk list -late -dir . -sub foo -file .jsp .java
list the most recent .jsp and .java files, in all dirs below the current one (.) having "foo" in their pathname.

sfk list -late -dir . *foo -file .jsp .java

the same, only shorter to type.

sfk list -justdirs -dir . *foo* -file .jsp .java

list all folders having "foo" in their pathname and which contain any .jsp or .java files.

sfk list -sincedir src5 src1 .cpp

provided that directory src5 is an older copy of src1, list the .cpp files that have been added/changed since src5 was created.

sfk list -pure -late=30 -quot | zip ../update.zip -@

collect the latest 30 files from current dir into a zip file, using InfoZIP's option "-@" to use a filename list from stdin.

sfk sel src .bak +del

select all .bak files in src, then delete them.

sfk list -nosub -late mydir +sleep 5000 +loop

list most recent files of mydir every 5 seconds, excluding all sub folder contents.

sfk list . .jpg +count

tell the number of .jpg files in current directory tree.

sfk list -nosub -flatime -tabs . .jpg +filter -stabform

"ren \$qcol3 \q\$col1\$col2-\$col3\q" +run "\$text"

rename all .jpg files in current folder to be prefixed by their modification time (type whole command in one line).

sfk larc src.zip +view

show content listing of zip file src.zip in Depeche View, to search filenames interactively ("sfk view" for details).

sfk list . >lslr

list files of the current directory and all subdirectories into an index text file "lslr" (like the unix command "ls -lR"). doing this in a root directory may take some while, but afterwards you will find the location of every file in real-time, by simply typing "sfk find lslr your_filename_pattern".

sfk list -qarc -tofile lslrx .

same as above, but including hidden and system files, as well as the first content level of every .zip and .jar file. using -tofile instead of ">lslr" redirection allows you to see a progress info. doing this in a root dir like C:\ may produce a filename listing of several hundred MB in size.

sfk list -hidden -arc -tofile lslrx1 .

produce an ultimate file listing, including hidden and system files, .zip and .jar contents, .tar, tar.gz and tar.bz2 contents, as well as archive contents embedded within archives, like .class files embedded within .jar files within a .tar.bz2 archive. running this command in a root dir like C:\ may take

some hours, and it may produce a 1 GB or more file listing, so make sure there is enough disk space.

```
sfk gindex[2] [opts] -dir rootDir [rootDir2] ...  
sfk lindex [opts] -dir localDir ...
```

create index file(s) containing file names with time and size info, for later realtime filename lookup, or just to archive folder meta data.

creating index files for use with sfk iname

to create a **local index of the current directory tree**, use **sfk lindex .**
which writes a local file **zz-index.txt**

to create a **global index of the current machine**, use **sfk gindex -dir C:\ D:**
which stores a base index file in your user folder:
C:\Users\main\AppData\Local\.sfkhome\data\zz-index.txt

to create an **extended global index** of network drives, use **sfk gindex2 -dir T:\ P:\ V:**
if drives T, P, V are network drives. this will write an extended index file in a user local folder:
C:\Users\main\AppData\Local\.sfkhome\data\zz-index-ext.txt

in other words:

sfk lindex writes an index locally onto the disk where you are standing, **visible for all users**. this is useful 1. under linux in the root dir "/" to make an index of all files available for all users
2. on external media like USB hard drives, where an index in the drive root can be used on any machine.

sfk gindex is your **personal global index** of whatever disk contents are important for you, **not for use by other users**, and maintained only by yourself.

creating special purpose meta data archives

to create a local index of a sub folder "mydir", use

```
sfk lindex mydir
```

which writes a file `zz-index-mydir.txt`. this file can NOT be used with `sfk iname`. it's just an archive of file meta informations for that sub folder.

using indexes for fast name lookup

```
sfk iname word [word2] [word3] [...]
```

will use local index files:

- in the current folder
- in the parent folder
- and so on, until the root folder "\"
- and also the global Base Index file

and then lists all file names from those indexes having the given words in their name or path.

```
sfk iname2 word [word2] [word3] [...]
```

does the same as `iname`, but also includes the global Extended Index file.

sfk index options

- tofile f write output into a file f instead of the default index file. can be used then with "sfk iname -from f ..."
- hidden list also hidden or system files
- arc include contents of .zip .jar .ear etc. archives and also .gz, .bz2, .tar, .tar.gz and .tar.bz2 as deep as possible, including nested archives. type "sfk help opt" for supported file extensions.
- qarc quick list archives, lists only archive entries at the top level, skipping nested archives.

see also

- sfk iname lookup files in local and Base Indexes
- sfk iname2 lookup in local, Base and Extended Index
- sfk help select the sfk file selection syntax.
- sfk help opt for further general options.
- sfk dir list contents of a directory.

examples

sfk gindex C:

create a global Base Index containing all file names from drive C: using a short syntax.

sfk gindex C:\ !.tmp !.bak

the same, but excluding all .tmp and .bak files. to include another drive letter in the index, the long syntax must be used:

sfk gindex -dir C:\ D:\ -subdir !tmp -file !.bak

create Base Index of C: and D: without any sub dirs having tmp in their name, and w/o .bak files.

sfk gindex2 -dir P:\ W:

if P: and W: are network drives, this creates an Extended Index file with their contents.

sfk lindex .

if standing in the root dir of an external hard drive, this will write a local index file for that drive, which can later be used on another machine by typing **sfk iname** while working on that drive.

sfk iname[2] word [word2] [!exclude] [.ext]

find filenames as fast as possible by using index files created by **sfk lindex** or **gindex**.

sfk iname word [word2] [word3] [...]

will use local index files **zz-index.txt**

- in the current folder
- in the parent folder
- and so on, until the root folder "\"

and also the global Base Index file from C:\Users\main\AppData\Local\.sfkhome

and then lists all file names from those indexes having the given words in their name or path.

sfk iname2 word [word2] [word3] [...]

does the same as iname, but also includes the global Extended Index file.

sfk gname uses only the global index.

sfk lname uses only local index files.

pattern syntax

- just type up to 10 words that must be contained somewhere in the file name or it's path. the words are AND combined. the sequence is ignored.
- words starting with ! or : will exclude any file having the word in it's name.
- words starting with "." are a file extension and must appear only at the END of a file name, or be followed in the filename by another "."
like ".so" in foobar.so.1.2.3

options

- size include size info in result
- size=n pad size info to n characters
- tab create tab separated output

output sorting

output is always sorted by **file modification time**, listing the **most recent files** at the list bottom.

chaining support

output chaining is supported.

aliases

- sfk x** is the same as **sfk iname**
- sfk x2** is the same as **sfk iname2**

see also

- sfk gindex** - create global index file(s)
- sfk lindex** - create local index file(s)

examples

sfk iname .pdf

lists all PDF files in the Base Index.

sfk iname part 2391 datasheet .pdf

lists all PDF files in the Base Index having the words "part", "2391" and "datasheet" somewhere in their name, for example:

C:\documentation\datasheets\parts\2391.pdf

C:\server2391beta\subparts\datasheet.pdf

sfk iname2 part 2391 datasheet .pdf

the same, but may list further results also

from the extended index, for example:

Z:\public\docs\part-2391\datasheet-03.pdf.old

sfk iname .hpp +find class tree

search all .hpp header files from the index
for the words "class" and "tree".

sfk iname tree .hpp +fview

load and view all .hpp files having "tree"
in their name or path. ("sfk view" for more)

sfk md5gento[=]outputfile [-rel[names]] dirname [-quiet]

create list of md5 checksums over all selected files.

options:

- rel create a list with relative filenames, i.e. strip the supplied dirname from the beginning of each name.
- quiet do not print progress output while reading files.

see also

sfk md5check to verify md5 lists.

sfk md5 create md5 of a single file.

web reference:

<http://stahlworks.com/sfk-md5list>

examples

sfk md5gento mydir.md5 mydir

create checksum of all files in folder mydir and all
sub folders and store them in mydir.md5.

sfk select -dir prod -file !.tmp +md5gento=checksums.md5

first select all files from prod, excluding .tmp files,
then create an md5 list to checksums.md5

```
sfk md5check[=]inputfile [-rel[ativeto] dirname] [-quiet]
```

verify a list of md5 checksums.

options:

- rel if dirname is supplied, treat filenames from list as being relative to dirname. in this case, run the command from dirname's parent directory.
- quiet do not print progress output while checking files, and do not list kb/sec speed stats.
- skip=n do not check all files, perform just spot checking by skipping n files after every checked file.

return codes for batch files

- 0 normal execution, all checksums matched.
- 1 normal execution, checksum(s) mismatched.
- 2 some files were missing, all other checksums matched.
- 3 some files were missing, and some checksums mismatched.
- >=9 severe error occurred, e.g. wrong checksum file format.

see also

- `sfk md5gento` to create md5 lists.
- `sfk md5` create md5 of a single file.

web reference:

<http://stahlworks.com/sfk-md5list>

examples

```
sfk md5check mydir.md5
check if files listed in mydir.md5 still have
the same checksums.
```

@rem windows batchfile example

```
@echo off
sfk md5check mysums.txt -quiet >nul 2>nul
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO mdfailed
sfk echo "[green]all ok[def]"
GOTO mddone
:mdfailed
sfk echo "[red]verification failed[def]"
:mddone
```



```
sfk md5 [-quiet] [-verify md5sum] file1 [file2 file3 ...]
```

calculate md5 hash of one or more files, and optionally compare the results. if md5 sums are compared, a message is shown, and the shell return code is set to 0 (all equal), or 1 (not equal), or >1 (any other error).

options

- nonames do not echo filename(s), show only the md5 sum.
- verify or -ver, or -v verifies the given filename(s) against the given checksum.
- nocomp if multiple filenames are given, do not compare.

see also

- sfk md5gento to create md5 lists.
- sfk md5 create md5 of a single file.

web reference:

<http://stahlworks.com/sfk-md5list>

examples

```
sfk md5 test01.dat
tell md5 sum of test01.dat
```

```
sfk md5 test01.dat test02.dat
compare both files, if content is the same.
```

```
sfk md5 -quiet -verify 14da96b20e45fd84c46c5b7aef641cb3 test01.dat
check if test01.dat has an md5 matching the one specified.
issues no output, returns just a shell return code.
within a windows .bat file, check the RC this way:
```

```
@echo off
sfk md5 -quiet -verify 14da96b20e45fd84c46c5b7aef641cb3 test01.dat
if errorlevel 1 goto mismatch
echo "file checked, all ok"
goto done
:mismatch
echo "file content mismatch"
:done
```

sfk snapto=outfile [-pure] [-nosub] -dir mydir1 -file .ext1 .ext2

Collect many text files into one large text file, specifying what sub folders and file (extensions) to include or exclude. The resulting file can be loaded directly by Depeche View, allowing interactive search and filtering of the content.

options

-fileset x	instead of specifying long lists of -dir / -file statements on the command line, you may write them all into a text file, then use that. for more infos, type "sfk help fileset".
-arc	include content of .zip .jar .tar etc. archives.
-hidden	include hidden and system files (not default).
-allbin	include binary files as text extract (not default).
-pure	don't insert filenames.
-prefix=x	insert x before every file.
-nometa	by default, sfk adds the file system's time and size info to each :file: header. can be disabled here. note that size= may not reflect the actual bytes used within the snapfile, due to line ending conversions.
-raw	collect faster by adding text file content as is, without CRLF conversions, but still replacing any null or EOF bytes. skips binary files completely.
-nosub	or -norec does not include subdirectories/folders.
-wrap[=n]	auto-wrap long lines [near column n], e.g. -wrap=80 .
-stat	show time stats at end.

see also

sfk view	a GUI tool that can load and view sfk snap files directly and search them at high speed.
sfk getdv	instant download of Depeche View Lite (portable, no installation) to browse snap file contents.

examples

sfk snapto=all-src.cpp . .cpp .hpp .dll !tmp	includes .cpp, .hpp and even .dll text extracts, excludes all files with "tmp" in their name, e.g. tmp10.cpp
sfk snapto=all-src.cpp -dir src2 !src2\old -file -all .doc	includes all text files, and .doc binary extracts.

sfk snapto=all-src.cpp -fileset zz-myset.txt

includes whatever dirs and files are specified in the fileset definition "zz-myset.txt" (sfk help fileset).

sfk select src5 .txt .exe +snapto=all.txt

filenames provided by command chaining are always included, no matter if binary or not. in this case, extracts from .exe binary files are also placed into the output.

sfk select -text mydir !.bak +snapto=all.txt

select all text files from mydir, excluding .bak files.

sfk joinlines infile outfile

join text lines from text split by email reformatting.

sfk detab=tabsize dir ext1 [ext2 ...] [-to outmask]

replace tabs by spaces within file(s) or text stream.

options

- to outmask do not overwrite original files, but write to output files according to outmask, e.g. **-to tmp\\$path\\$base.\$ext** or **-to tmp\\$file**
- yes if files are selected, really (re)write them. without -yes, detab is only simulated.
- memlimit=n process files with up to n mbytes (default=300).
- nowarn do not tell about skipped or unreadable files.

see also

- sfk scantab** list files containing TAB characters.
- sfk help opt** how to change the memlimit permanently.
- sfk view** a text file viewer that can show all TAB characters in blue by pressing CTRL+T.

examples

sfk detab=3 sources .cpp .hpp

replace tabs by up to 3 blanks, within all .cpp and .hpp files of directory tree "sources".

sfk select -dir src -file .java +detab=4 -to tmp\file

list all .java files of src, then detab with tabsize 4, writing all outputs to directory tree "tmp".

sfk detab=4 src .java -relnames -to tmp\file

nearly the same, however stripping the "src" input directory name from output file paths (not possible with "+detab" form).

sfk filter mytext.txt +detab=8

detab content of a single file to the console.

sfk entab=tabsize dir ext1 [ext2 ...]

replace groups of spaces by tabs within file(s).

options

- to outmask** do not overwrite original files, but write to output files according to outmask, e.g. **-to tmp\path\base.file** or **-to tmp\file**
- yes** if files are selected, really (re)write them. without -yes, entab is only simulated.
- memlimit=n** process files with up to n mbytes (default=300).
- nowarn** do not tell about skipped or unreadable files.

see also

- sfk scantab** list files containing TAB characters.
- sfk help opt** how to change the memlimit permanently.
- sfk view** a text file viewer that can show all TAB characters in blue by pressing CTRL+T.

web reference:

<http://stahlworks.com/sfk-entab>

examples

sfk entab=3 sources .cpp .hpp

replace 3 spaces each by a TAB character in all .cpp and .hpp files within folder sources.

sfk entab=3 singleFileName.txt

the same, but only in a single file.