

NAME

whereis – locate the binary, source, and manual page files for a command

SYNOPSIS

whereis [options] [**-BMS** *directory...* **-f**] *name...*

DESCRIPTION

whereis locates the binary, source and manual files for the specified command names. The supplied names are first stripped of leading pathname components. Prefixes of **s**, resulting from use of source code control are also dealt with. **whereis** then attempts to locate the desired program in the standard Linux places, and in the places specified by **\$PATH** and **\$MANPATH**.

The search restrictions (options **-b**, **-m** and **-s**) are cumulative and apply to the subsequent *name* patterns on the command line. Any new search restriction resets the search mask. For example,

whereis -bm ls tr -m gcc

searches for "ls" and "tr" binaries and man pages, and for "gcc" man pages only.

The options **-B**, **-M** and **-S** reset search paths for the subsequent *name* patterns. For example,

whereis -m ls -M /usr/share/man/man1 -f cal

searches for "ls" man pages in all default paths, but for "cal" in the */usr/share/man/man1* directory only.

OPTIONS

-b

Search for binaries.

-m

Search for manuals.

-s

Search for sources.

-u

Only show the command names that have unusual entries. A command is said to be unusual if it does not have just one entry of each explicitly requested type. Thus '**whereis -m -u ***' asks for those files in the current directory which have no documentation file, or more than one.

-B list

Limit the places where **whereis** searches for binaries, by a whitespace-separated list of directories.

-M list

Limit the places where **whereis** searches for manuals and documentation in Info format, by a whitespace-separated list of directories.

-S list

Limit the places where **whereis** searches for sources, by a whitespace-separated list of directories.

-f

Terminates the directory list and signals the start of filenames. It *must* be used when any of the **-B**, **-M**, or **-S** options is used.

-l

Output the list of effective lookup paths that **whereis** is using. When none of **-B**, **-M**, or **-S** is

specified, the option will output the hard-coded paths that the command was able to find on the system.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

-V, --version

Print version and exit.

FILE SEARCH PATHS

By default **whereis** tries to find files from hard-coded paths, which are defined with glob patterns. The command attempts to use the contents of **\$PATH** and **\$MANPATH** environment variables as default search path. The easiest way to know what paths are in use is to add the **-l** listing option. Effects of the **-B**, **-M**, and **-S** are displayed with **-l**.

ENVIRONMENT

WHEREIS_DEBUG=all

enables debug output.

EXAMPLES

To find all files in */usr/bin* which are not documented in */usr/man/man1* or have no source in */usr/src*:

```
cd /usr/bin whereis -u -ms -M /usr/man/man1 -S /usr/src -f *
```

REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at <https://github.com/util-linux/util-linux/issues>.

AVAILABILITY

The **whereis** command is part of the util-linux package which can be downloaded from [Linux Kernel Archive](https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/) <<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>>.