

NAME

/etc/updatedb.conf – a configuration file for updatedb(8)

DESCRIPTION

/etc/updatedb.conf is a text file. Blank lines are ignored. A **#** character outside of a quoted string starts a comment extending until end of line.

Other lines must be of the following form:

VARIABLE = "*VALUE*"

White space between tokens is ignored. *VARIABLE* is an alphanumeric string which does not start with a digit. *VALUE* can contain any character except for **"**. No escape mechanism is supported within *VALUE* and there is no way to write *VALUE* spanning more than one line.

Unknown *VARIABLE* values are considered an error. The defined variables are:

PRUNEFES

A whitespace-separated list of file system types (as used in **/etc/mtab**) which should not be scanned by **updatedb(8)**. The file system type matching is case-insensitive. By default, no file system types are skipped.

When scanning a file system is skipped, all file systems mounted in the subtree are skipped too, even if their type does not match any entry in **PRUNEFES**.

PRUNENAMES

A whitespace-separated list of directory names (without paths) which should not be scanned by **updatedb(8)**. By default, no directory names are skipped.

Note that only directories can be specified, and no pattern mechanism (e.g. globbing) is used.

PRUNEPATHS

A whitespace-separated list of path names of directories which should not be scanned by **updatedb(8)**. Each path name must be exactly in the form in which the directory would be reported by **locate(1)**.

By default, no paths are skipped.

PRUNE_BIND_MOUNTS

One of the strings **0**, **no**, **1** or **yes**. If **PRUNE_BIND_MOUNTS** is **1** or **yes**, bind mounts are not scanned by **updatedb(8)**. All file systems mounted in the subtree of a bind mount are skipped as well, even if they are not bind mounts. As an exception, bind mounts of a directory on itself are not skipped. Note that Btrfs subvolume mounts are handled internally in the kernel as bind mounts (see **btrfs-subvolume(8)**), and thus, may get skipped if you have also mounted the filesystem root itself. To counteract this, make your root directory a Btrfs subvolume, too.

By default, bind mounts are not skipped.

NOTES

When a directory is matched by **PRUNEFES**, **PRUNENAMES** or **PRUNEPATHS**, **updatedb(8)** does not scan the contents of the directory. The path of the directory itself is, however, entered in the created database. For example, if **/tmp** is in **PRUNEPATHS**, **locate(1)** will not show any files stored in **/tmp**, but it can show the **/tmp** directory. This behavior differs from traditional **locate** implementations.

In some **updatedb(8)** implementations **PRUNEPATHS** can be used to exclude non-directory files. This is not the case in this implementation.

/etc/updatedb.conf is a shell script in some implementations, which allows much more flexibility in defining the variables. Equivalent functionality can be achieved by using the command-line options to **updatedb(8)**.

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SEE ALSO

locate(1), **updatedb(8)**