fl



12 Practical
Examples of
Linux grep
Command



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searcner that comes equipped on every distribution of Linux. If, for whatever reason, it is not installed on your system, you can easily install it via your package manager (apt-get on Debian/Ubuntu and yum on RHEL/CentOS /Fedora).

\$ sudo apt-

\$ sudo yum

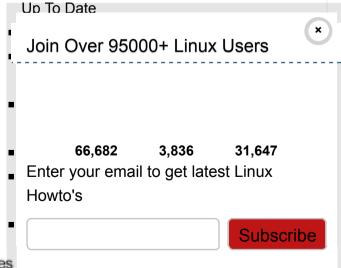
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and use some real world examples.

1. Search and Find Files

Let's say that you have just installed a fresh copy of the new Ubuntu on

machine, and that you are going to give

Python

your

scripting a

shot. You

have been

scouring the

web looking

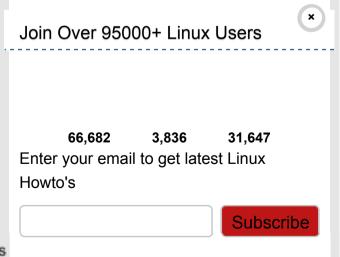
for tutorials,

but you see

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 User Mode Linux – Understanding and Administration





two αιπετεητ versions of Python in use, and you don't know which one was installed on your system by the Ubuntu installer, or if it installed any modules. Simply run this command: # dpkg —l | Sample Output ii python2 Join Over 95000+ Linux Users ii python2 pythonii python-66,682 3,836 31,647 Enter your email to get latest Linux First, we ran Howto's dpkg -I, Subscribe which lists 35 Practical Examples

aep. packages on your system. Second, we piped that output to grep -i python, which simple states "go to grep and filter out and return everything with 'python' in it." The -i option is there to ignore-case, as grep is case-sensitive. Using the -i option is a good habit of Join Over 95000+ Linux Users getting into, unless of course you 66,682 3,836 31,647 are trying to Enter your email to get latest Linux nail down a Howto's more specific Subscribe search. 35 Practical Examples

Search and Filter **Files** The grep can also be used to search and filter within individual files or multiple files. Lets take this scenario: You are having some trouble with your Apache Web Server, and you have reached out to one of the Join Over 95000+ Linux Users many awesome forums on the net 66,682 3,836 31,647 Enter your email to get latest Linux asking for Howto's some help. Subscribe The kind soul 35 Practical Examples

to you nas	
asked you to	
post the	
contents of	
your	
/etc/apache2	
/sites-	
available	
/default-ssl	
file. Wouldn't	
it be easier	
for you, the	
guy helping	
you, and	
everyone	
reading it, if	
you could	
remove all of	
the	
commented	
lines? Well	
you can! Just	
run this:	
	Join Over 95000+ Linux Users
# grep -v "	
The –v option	
tells grep to	66,682 3,836 31,647 Enter your email to get latest Linux
invert its	Howto's
output,	
meaning that 35 Practical Examples	Subscribe
35 Practical Examples	

printing matching lines, do the opposite and print all of the lines that don't match the expression, in this case, the # commented lines. 3. Find all.mp3 **Files** Only The grep can be very useful for filtering from Join Over 95000+ Linux Users stdout. For example, let's say that you have an 66,682 3,836 31,647 entire folder Enter your email to get latest Linux Howto's full of music files in a Subscribe 35 Practical Examples

tormats. You want to find all of the *.mp3 files from the artist JayZ, but you don't want any of the remixed tracks. Using a find command with a couple of grep pipes will do the trick: # find . -n In this example, we are using find to print all of Join Over 95000+ Linux Users the files with a *.mp3 extension, piping it to 66,682 3,836 31,647 grep -i to Enter your email to get latest Linux Howto's filter out and prints all files Subscribe 35 Practical Examples

and then another pipe to grep -vi which filters out and does not print all filenames with the string (in any case) "remix". **35** Practical **Examples** of Linux Find Command Display Number of Lines Join Over 95000+ Linux Users **Before** or After Search 66,682 3,836 31,647 **String** Enter your email to get latest Linux Howto's Another Subscribe 35 Practical Examples

tne -A and -B switches, which displays the matched line and number of lines either that come before or after the search string. While the man page gives a more detailed explanation, I find it easiest to remember the options as -A = after, and -B =before:

ifconfig
ifconfig

5. Prints Number of Lines

Around 35 Practical Examples



The grep's -C option is similar, but instead of printing the lines that come either before or after the string, it prints the lines in either direction: # ifconfig Count Number of Matche Join Over 95000+ Linux Users S Similar to 66,682 3,836 31,647 piping a grep Enter your email to get latest Linux string to word Howto's count (wc Subscribe nrogram) 35 Practical Examples

option can perform the same for you: # ifconfig Search Files by Given **String** The -n option for grep is very useful when debugging files during compile errors. It displays the line number Join Over 95000+ Linux Users in the file of the given search string: 66,682 3,836 31,647 Enter your email to get latest Linux # grep -n " Howto's Subscribe 35 Practical Examples

a string Recursi vely in all Directori es

If you would like to search for a string in the current directory along with all of the subdirectories, you can specify the –r option to search recursively:

grep -r "

9. Searche s for the entire

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Passing the

—w option to
grep
searches for
the entire
pattern that is
in the string.
For example,
using:

ifconfig

Will print out the line containing the pattern in quotes. On the other hand, if you try:

ifconfig

Nothing will be returned as we are not searching for a pattern, but an entire

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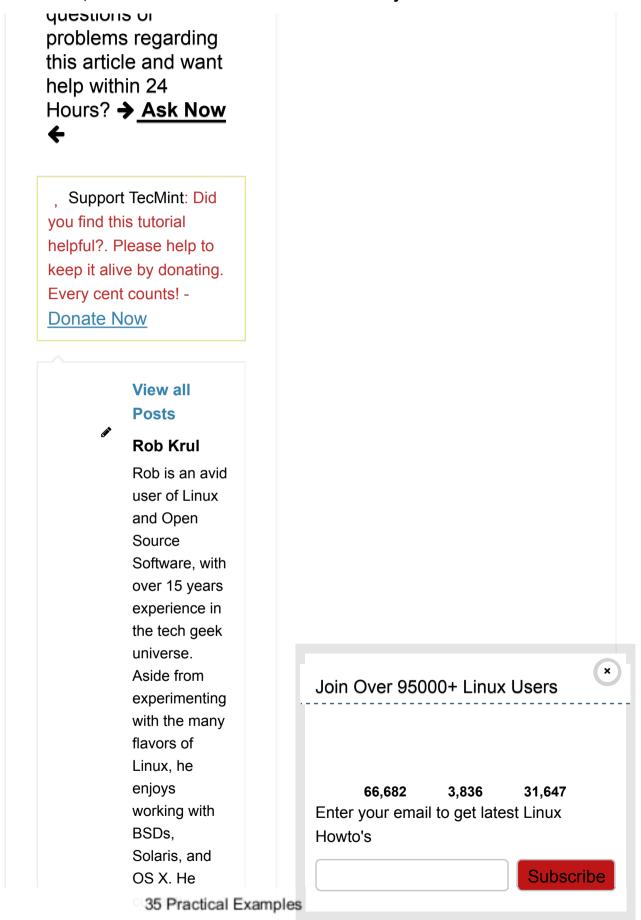


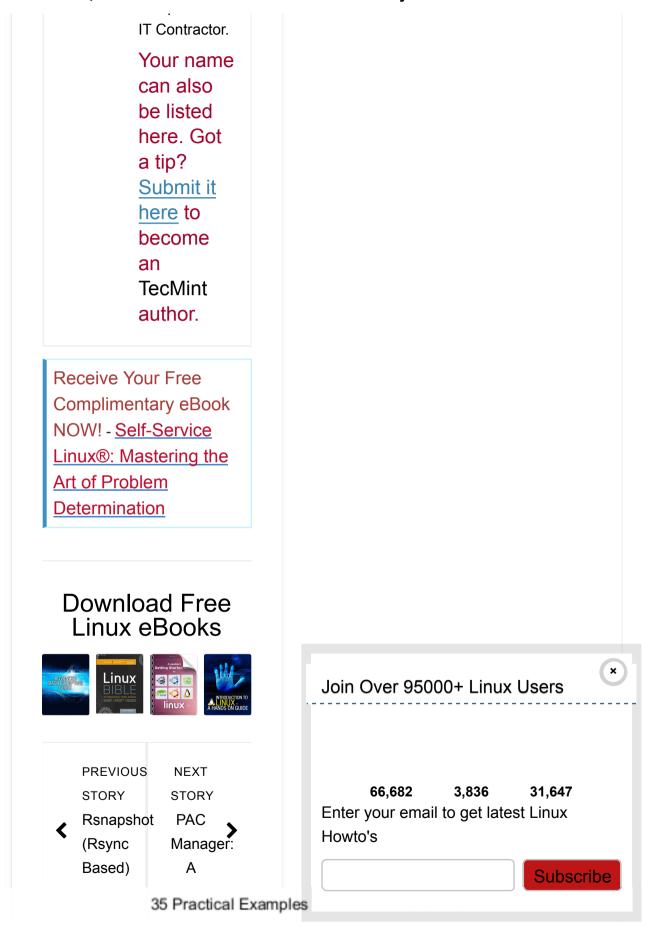
10.	
Search	
a string	
in	
Gzipped	
Files	
Deserving	
some	
mention are	
grep's	
derivatives.	
The first is	
zgrep, which,	
similar to	
zcat, is for use on	
gzipped files.	
It takes the	
same options	
as grep and	(x)
is used in the	Join Over 95000+ Linux Users
same way:	
# zgrep —i	66,682 3,836 31,647
	Enter your email to get latest Linux
11.	Howto's
Match	Subscribe
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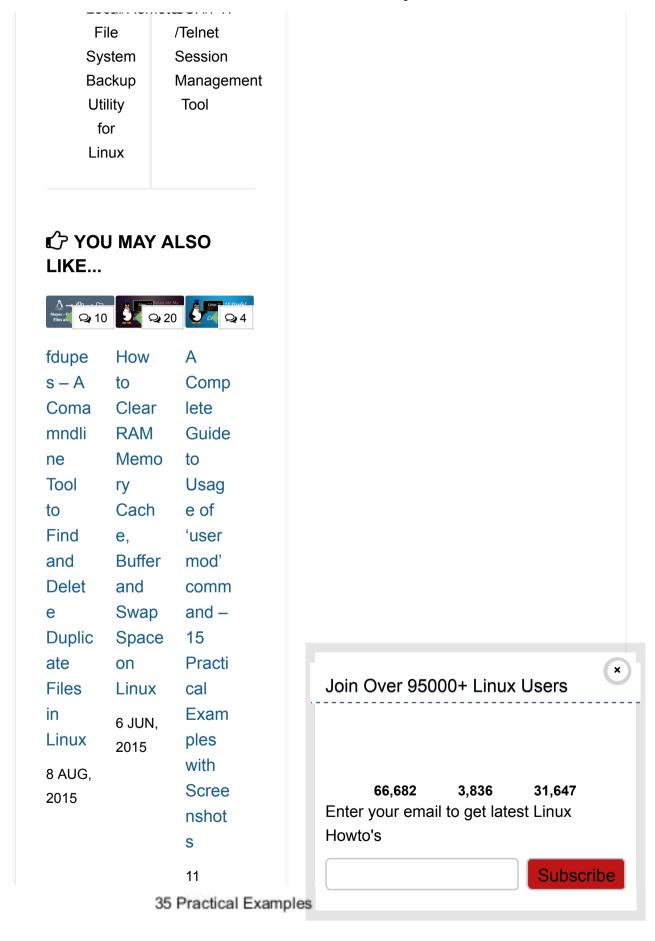
Express ion in **Files** The egrep is another derivative that stands for "Extended Global Regular Expression". It recognizes additional expression meta-characters such at +?| and (). egrep is very useful for searching source files, and other pieces of Join Over 95000+ Linux Users code, should the need arise. It can be invoked 66,682 3,836 31,647 Enter your email to get latest Linux from regular Howto's grep by Subscribe specifying 35 Practical Examples

option. # grep —E 12. Search a Fixed Pattern **String** The fgrep searches a file or list of files for a fixed pattern string. It is the same as grep -F. A common way of using fgrep is to pass a file of Join Over 95000+ Linux Users patterns to it: # fgrep -f 66,682 3,836 31,647 Enter your email to get latest Linux This is just a Howto's starting point Subscribe with grep, but 35 Practical Examples

propaply able to see, it is invaluable for a variety of purposes. Aside from the simple one line commands we have implemented, grep can be used to write powerful cron jobs, and robust shell scripts, for a start. Be creative, experiment with the options in the man page, and come up Join Over 95000+ Linux Users with grep expressions that serve 66,682 3,836 31,647 your own Enter your email to get latest Linux purposes! Howto's Subscribe 35 Practical Examples







13 RESPONSES Comments 2 → Pingbacks 0 Mike February 10, 2016 at 9:29 am Im new to grep, but i have found it very handy. I do allot of searching the same files every day and most of the time its a single file grep -i -A50 "diskview -j" *-Report* | less -R i have this alias that works great thought sometimes i am working on several systems at once and they all have the same file. I need to know what array i am looking at but i dont need it to × Join Over 95000+ Linux Users print the file name for all 50 lines. So what i was trying to figure out is can i do a grep -i -l 66,682 3,836 31,647 "diskview -j" *-Report* Enter your email to get latest Linux followed by my Howto's original grep Subscribe command so i get the 1 9 1 35 Practical Examples

next 50 lines?	
Or is this going to produce 3 file names followed by 3 diskveiw -j reports?	
Arpan Das October 1, 2015 at 2:08 am Very useful. Thanks Reply	
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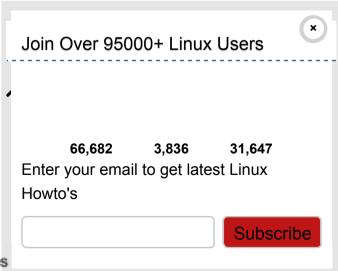
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