

Globbering (Wildcards)

Commands can use wildcards to perform actions on more than one file at a time, or to find part of a phrase in a text file. There are many uses for wildcards, there are two different major ways that wildcards are used,

- they are globbing patterns/standard wildcards that are often used by the shell.
- The alternative is regular expressions, popular with many other commands and popular for use with text searching and manipulation.

STANDARD WILDCARDS (GLOBBING PATTERNS)

1) * (asterick)

- ls nameofthefile* -- (* means anything after 'e' (symbol,alphabet,word))

Suppose there are lots of files in the folder. Its not easy to remember every file name. You may remember partially. So it helps here :

ll Darshit_study_file

ll Darshit* ----- Both commands will produce same output as * replaces _study_file

(or) ll *arsh*

Above thing is not just valid for ll command. It goes with any related command like 'rm'.

e.g. - Suppose I have 100 file names random_01, random_02..... And you want to remove all those files, will you type rm command 100 times ?? No! So we use command :

- rm random_*

2) ? (question mark)

this can represent any *single* character. If you specified something at the command line like "hd?" GNU/Linux would look for hda, hdb, hdc and every other letter/number between a-z, 0-9.

- ls ?ameofthefile

3) [] square brackets

specifies a range. If you did m[a,o,u]m it can become: mam, mum, mom if you did: m[a-d]m it can become anything that starts and ends with m and has any character a to d inbetween. For example, these would work: mam, mbm, mcm, mdm.

- ll [r]* --- will display files with r as start and anything after that (*) eg.

random_01,random_01.....

It will not show file Random. If you want to include that, you can use command :

- ll [rR]* --- this is same as ll [r or R]*

This will show Random file also.

Files - random_01, random_02, random_03,random_04,Random, sidom

e.g. `ll *[d][o]*` ---- will print all files named having 'do' in the middle

Examples :

```
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$ ll [r]*
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_01
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_02
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_03
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_04
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$ ll [rR]*
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:01 Random
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_01
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_02
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_03
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_04
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$ ll *m
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:01 Random
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:04 sidom
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$ ll *[d][o]*
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:01 Random
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_01
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_02
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_03
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_04
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:04 sidom
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$ |
```

```
Megaranger@localhost:~/Documents

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$ ll *[d][o]*
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:01 Random
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_01
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_02
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_03
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_04
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:04 sidom
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$ ll [!s][d][o]*
ls: cannot access [!s][d][o]*: No such file or directory
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$ ll [!s]*[d][o]*
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:01 Random
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_01
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_02
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_03
-rw-rw-r--. 1 Megaranger Megaranger 0 May 31 20:00 random_04
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
[Megaranger@localhost Documents]$
```

- ll *om_[0][0-5] -----* means anything, om_, next char should be '0', then it can be any number between [0-5]

4) ! (Logical NOT) --- exclude that character and find

Real-word-example :

Suppose you have log folder with many files, but you want to search just 'login' files from month June-August 2014. So you will search something like this :

```
ll *[6-8]-[2014] | grep login
```

Ofcourse we need to know the format of file names to use these commands.