

Grep Quick Reference

A quick reference for some handy grep statements.

The idea here is to be able to highlight a line in your IDE and execute it directly in a shell session. This saves some time trying to remember how to construct a particular command, and can be useful if you keep your development notes open in your IDE. For example, you could quickly search for a grep pattern you remember using before, and execute it with `<shift><ctrl>`.

To set this up in IntelliJ family IDEs:

- Create a runner script, e.g. `command_runner.sh` which can execute supplied commands (see example below)
- Configure an External Tool in Settings:
 - Give it a name like "Execute with Bash"
 - Set the Program to your `command_runner.sh`
 - Set the Arguments to `${SelectedText}`
 - Set the Working Directory to `${ProjectFileDir}`
- Optionally assign a keyboard shortcut

This example simplified command runner script will pass the `${SelectedText}` to bash:

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
eval "$@"
```

Description	Command
Show 2 lines of context before and after a matched line	<code>grep -ir -C2 'word' *</code>
Show the line number	<code>grep -n 'word' *</code>
Print file names only, containing the pattern	<code>grep -ir -l 'word' *</code>
Grep only in filenames with a particular extension	<code>grep -ir --include=*.md 'word'</code>
Exclude files with a particular extension	<code>grep -ir --exclude=*.md 'word'</code>
Recursive grep, searching for patterns in <code>patterns.txt</code>	<code>find . -name *.md -exec grep -Hn -f patterns.txt { } ;</code>
Recursive grep for <code>word</code> in all <code>.md</code> files	<code>find . -name *.md -exec grep -Hn 'word' { } ;</code>
Count total occurrences of <code>word</code> , including cases when a line contains multiple occurrences	<code>grep -oir 'word' * wc -l</code>
Grep multiple strings with the <code>--perl-regexp</code> option	<code>grep -r --perl-regexp 'hello goodbye' *</code>
Count total occurrences of <code>word</code> , including cases when a line contains multiple occurrences	<code>grep -oir 'word' * wc -l</code>
Grep multiple strings with the <code>--perl-regexp</code> option	<code>grep -r --perl-regexp 'hello goodbye' *</code>

(note `|` is escaped as `|` in the source of the table above).

Links to [markdown](#), [pdf](#)