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Windows Commands, Batch files, Command prompt and PowerShell

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# Findstr command examples and regular expressions

by SRINI

**Findstr** command on Windows is useful for searching for specific text pattern in files. It's functionality is similar to the grep command on Linux OS. You can find below the syntax of 'findstr' for various use cases.

Search for text/string in a file:

```
findstr pattern filename
```

For example, to search for the string 'Windows' in the text file CLItips.txt, the command would be as below.

```
findstr Windows CLItips.txt
```

Note that the above command looks for exactly 'Windows'. It considers case by default. So if you have a line that has the word 'windows', it would not be printed in the output of the above command.

### **Ignore text case:**

You can add */I* switch to ignore the case in the search. So if you run '*findstr windows /I CLItips.txt*', it does case insensitive pattern matching.

### **Search for any of the given words**

If you want to print the lines having any of the given word set, you can enclose the list of words in double quotes in findstr command.

```
findstr "word1 word2 word3.." filename.txt
```

```
findstr "Apple Orange" fruits.txt
```

This command would print a line if it has either the word 'Apple' or the word 'Orange' or both the words.

### **Search for pattern with multiple words**

```
findstr /C:"word1 word2 word3..." filename
```

/C indicates that the search pattern has to be matched literally.

For example, to search for the string “Apple Ball Cat” in file Book.txt, the command would be as below

```
findstr /C:"Apple Ball Cat" Book.txt
```

## Search with Regular Expressions

You can use regular expressions with findstr /R switch. Typical command would be as below.

```
findstr /R pattern filename.txt
```

Here the pattern can be specified using regular expressions.

Examples:

Search for the occurrence of all words ending with ‘xyz’ in a file.

```
findstr /R [a-z]*xyz filename.txt
```

## Search for text in all the files in a current directory

You can use wildcard '\*' to specify that all the files in a directory should be searched for the given string.

For example, to search for 'windows' in all the files in the current directory, you can use the below command.

```
findstr /I windows *
```

To search all the text files in the directory C:\data:

```
findstr /I windows C:\data\*.txt
```

## Search for multiple strings

If you need to search for multiple strings, then you can do that with the below batch script.

```
@echo off

for /F %%i in (pattern.txt) do (
    echo Files containing %%i
    findstr /M /C:%%i /S *.txt
)
```

'pattern.txt' is the file having the strings(one per line) that need to be searched for. The above command searches only text files. You can customize the findstr command in the script to search in files with other extensions. Adding '/M' option to the command causes to print only the file names.

### **Print only the lines where the given string is at the beginning of the line.**

You can add /B switch to indicate that the specified string should be in the beginning of the line.

```
findstr /B /C:windows CLItips.txt
```

### **Print only the lines where the given string is at the end of the line**

```
findstr /E /C:windows CLItips.txt
```

### **Print line numbers for all the matched lines.**

You can add /N switch to the *findstr* command to print line numbers for the matched lines.

### **Print only the filenames**

```
finstr /M /C:"pattern" *.log
```

This command searches for the pattern in all \*.log files, and then prints only the file names having the pattern. Even if a file has multiple occurrences of the pattern, it's printed only once by findstr.

26 comments... [add one](#)

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### Khoi

How do I use either the FIND or FINDSTR commands to return a list of ASCII files containing a string? For example, I have 2000 ASCII files (.txt) in one or several directories (c:\temp, c:\temp1) and I need the path and file name of files that contain the string "USA"? Thanks.

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### admin

You can use /S for searching files in all the subdirectories recursively. For your example the command would be as below:

```
findstr /S /C:"USA" *
```

The above command would print the matched lines also. If you want only the file names to be printed then the command would be:

```
findstr /S /M /C:"USA" *
```

LINK

**admin**

And if you want to search multiple directories then the command would be:

```
findstr /S /M /C:"USA" /D:directory1;directory2;directory3 *
```

If you want to search only text files then use the below command(Above command would match any file type like .xls, .pdf, .doc etc.)

```
findstr /S /M /C:"USA" /D:directory1;directory2;directory3 *.txt
```

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**Murray**

Hi, great info, thanks.

TYPO—This does not seem to run.

```
findstr /S /M /I /C:"murray salmon" /F: *
```

I want to search all folders on C and F drives for ANY document type that has the words murray and salmon.

Ideas?

Thanks

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### **Vlad**

You are searching for the phrase “murray salmon”

Remove /C: and then it would search for murray or salmon – this way you will get at least some results and if desired you can filter out the output of that.

[LINK](#)

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### **Eszter**

Hi,

Does anybody know how I can display one more line after the matching pattern?

(In Linux, I can do this with the ‘grep -A1 “pattern” filename’ command)

Thanks,

E

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### **Steffen**

Hi

I need to find the string “Milwaukee” in several \*.txt files and then move the files to another directory.

Does anybody know how to do that?

Thank you



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## Bill Clinton

another source of bugs from microsoft

REPLY LINK

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## Abhishek

I want to search specific word from text file could be present at any location on my system.

I am writing this please tell what is wrong it is not working.

```
@echo off
:START

FINDSTR /C:"up to date" C:\Users\G510840\Desktop\dbstatus.txt
if %errorlevel%==0
(
%windir%\System32\rundll32.exe powrprof.dll,SetSuspendState
)
else

(
SLEEP -m 100
goto START
```



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### **bharat**

I want to know, how to search and output only the nth occurrence of pattern matched, using findstr.

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### **Samba999**

How do you delete any found files? Thanks :)

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### **1Roso**

To search for multiple strings you can simply do for literal strings:

```
findstr /c:"one" /c:"two" /c:"three" filename.txt
```

or

```
findstr "one two three" filename.txt
```

as by default space is the delimiter ;)

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### **sunil seelam**

I want to to extract only “file\_size=8452858 rows\_count=29339” from the below line.

Actually i have many such files which has multiple entries like below but multiple entries have the same value in a single file.

Basically i want to extract string matching file\_size and then say 40 characters including including file\_size.

```
file_arrival_date=2017-03-29 file_size=8452858 rows_count=29339 file_type=dat  
file_source_system
```

can some please help.

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### **Atr**

I want to search a specific word in a lot of archives, in a lot of subdirectories.

```
FINDSTR “word” *
```

But in this way, I can search only in the directory, not in all subdirectories.

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### **SAID**

CAN I ANY ONE HELP ME TO REMOVE EXPRESSION SEPARATOR FROM TEXT FILE.  
IN CMD LINE.

EXAMPLE: CONVERT FROM THIS “127,231,653” TO THIS 127231653

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### **jonny**

@Atr first do this so you can learn:

FINDSTR /?

then use /S like:

FINDSTR /S “word” \*

REPLY LINK

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### **Gerald (Jerry) Achor**

I have the following command to list the last 9 entries of a directory. The entries are numbered. How can I extend that range to over 9 entries? When I specify a range such as

[1-10], weird results are shown.

```
dir /b /p /w /od|findstr/n ^|^|findstr “^[1-9]:”
```

My operating system is Windows 10 Home.

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## Vlagen

Add quotes around pattern and filename and add full directory to filename for accuracy

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## kiddie

How can i extract the words with in two different strings and put them site by site.?

File Ex.

word 1

word 2

C:\>some user some word

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## Bunga

Can we use the findstr command to search a particular string/pattern in batch file too? I mean say if there is a batch file with name a.bat and it has got the string program in that batch file.

Now if i use the findstr /I "program" \* commnad, will that give a.bat file also?.I want to know yes or no.

And i tried doing that and it is giving the a.bat file but one more doubt for me,while executing this findstr command on batch likes the above, will that findstr internally executes all the commands in that batc file?just wannna know.

REPLY   LINK

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## **glenn**

This is out of date.

```
> findstr "-- FAILED" output.txt
```

```
FINDSTR: /- ignored
```

```
FINDSTR: /- ignored
```

```
FINDSTR: /- ignored
```

```
FINDSTR: /- ignored
```

```
FINDSTR: / ignored
```

```
FINDSTR: /F ignored
```

```
FINDSTR: /A ignored
```

```
FINDSTR: /D ignored
```

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**krishna**

Hi,

I'm having the line "case IF-1234 this is a text file"

In my above string I want to print IF-1234. can some one help me how i can achieve this using one single windows command.

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**VIJAY**

Dear team,

Please help with command(Findstr) for Copying the Line Contains in the input.txt from MasterBasedata.txt and to be writing in new file Output.txt

Ex. In input file i've the strins to be searched, Ex Multipal Mobile Number, In MasterBasedata.txt I've the detail of Mobile numbers i'm searching for, I need to write the line which is having matching mobile numbers in new file output.txt.

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**Tanushree Gogoi**

I want to capture the 2nd word( i.e. the date) from the 2nd line from the below output of a command(let it be xyz)

Data source CODA enabled.

=== 03/13/19 01:45:00 PM

Instance : 0

GBL\_COLLECTOR : Nums 12.02.008

GBL\_INTERVAL : 299

I am using the below, but getting error,

For /f "tokens=2" %a in ('xyz | findstr == ') do echo %a

Can anyone help me find the exact syntax to capture the above ?

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**SAL**

hI!

I use a findstr in a txt file, but in txt have a similar line, for example:

...

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

...

the findstr return all lines, i need only the first line number of match, not all.

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## preythap

How do I find rows in a file having only commas using findstr and print other lines.

For eg in below 3 lines I want to print only row 1,3 to a new file

INPUT:

1,2,3

”

a,b,c

OUTPUT:

1,2,3

a,b,c

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