

# Comparing two folder/files in Linux

on June 26, 2019



To compare two folder/files in linux, you can use **diff** command.

1. Open terminal

2. **diff <source\_folder\_path> <dest\_folder\_path>**

To know more about this command you can do

**diff --help**

this will return you a full help menu. Important helps are added below.

Usage: diff [OPTION]... FILES

Compare FILES line by line.

-y, --side-by-side	output in two columns
-p, --show-c-function	show which C function each change is in
-r, --recursive	recursively compare any subdirectories found
-i, --ignore-case	ignore case differences in file contents
-E, --ignore-tab-expansion	ignore changes due to tab expansion
-Z, --ignore-trailing-space	ignore white space at line

end

-b, --ignore-space-change	ignore changes in the amount of white space
-w, --ignore-all-space	ignore all white space
-B, --ignore-blank-lines	ignore changes where lines are all blank

There is also a **GUI application** for diff, named **Meld**.  
You can install Meld using apt

```
sudo apt install meld
```

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