Technical Comparisons – File System

Microsoft Windows

- FAT16 (used in DOS and Windows 3.x)
- FAT32 (used in Win95, Win98)
- ExFAT
- NTFS (used in XP until present)
- ReFS (optional use in Server 2012, Server 2016)

Linux Distros

- Ext2
- Ext3
- Ext4



FEATURE	FAT32	NTFS
Max. Partition Size	2ТВ	2ТВ
Max. File Name	8.3 Characters	255 Characters
Max. File Size	4GB	16TB
File/Folder Encryption	No	Yes
Fault Tolerance	No	Auto Repair
Security	Only Network	Local and Network
Compression	No	Yes
Conversion	Possible	Not Allowed
Compatibility	Win 95/98/2K/2K3/XP	Win NT/2K/XP/Vista/7

Some of the many reasons why more admins are beginning to implement Linux into their infrastructures for File Servers and Web Servers.

Windows NTFS has a practical maximum partition limit of 2TB (ACL is limited if higher). But, unlike Windows, Linux Ext4 has a fully applicable maximum partition size 16TB.

For Windows NTFS, this is also the maximum path length. But, unlike Windows, Linux Ext4 has a maximum path length of 4096.

THE LINUX FILE SYSTEM



THE LINUX FILE SYSTEM HAS A TREE LIKE STRUCTURE.

THE TREE LIKE STRUCTURE IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE DIRECTORY TREE

WINDOWS USERS USUALLY USE THE WORD FOLDER, HOWEVER, IN LINUX TERMINOLOGY, FOLDERS ARE REFERRED TO AS DIRECTORIES





SO WHAT WINDOWS USERS REFER TO AS A FOLDER LINUX USERS REFER TO AS A DIRECTORY (THEY ARE THE SAME THING)



THE DIRECTORY TREE

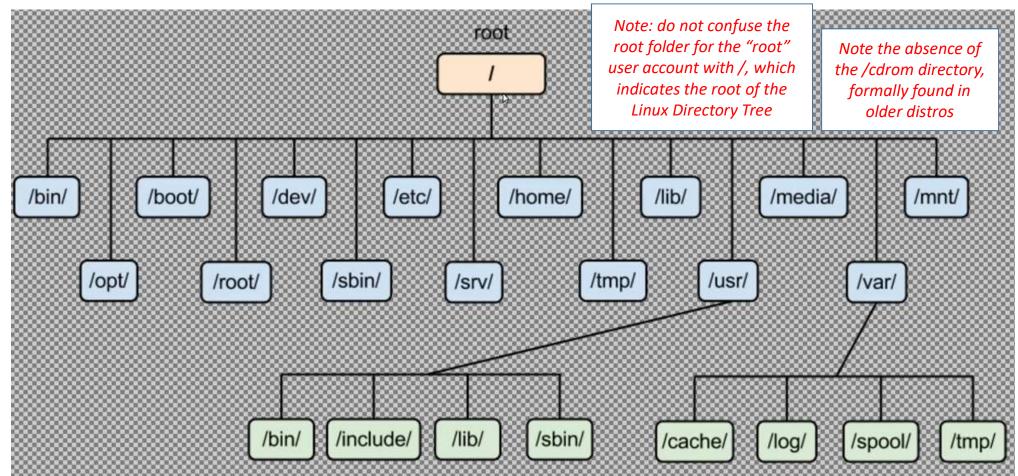
PRETTY MUCH LIKE A FAMILY TREE, IN LINUX
FILE SYSTEM, EACH DIRECTORY (OR FILE) HAS
A PARENT. HOWEVER, THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS
IS THE ROOT DIRECTORY. THE ROOT DIRECTORY HAS NO PARENTS
AND IS REPRESENTED BY A FORWARD SLASH /

THE ROOT DIRECTORY IS THE FIRST DIRECTORY (TOP MOST) IN OUR DIRECTORY TREE.
THE ROOT DIRECTORY CONTAINS FILES AND SUBDIRECTORIES,
WHICH CONTAIN MORE FILES AND SUBDIRECTORIES AND SO ON.

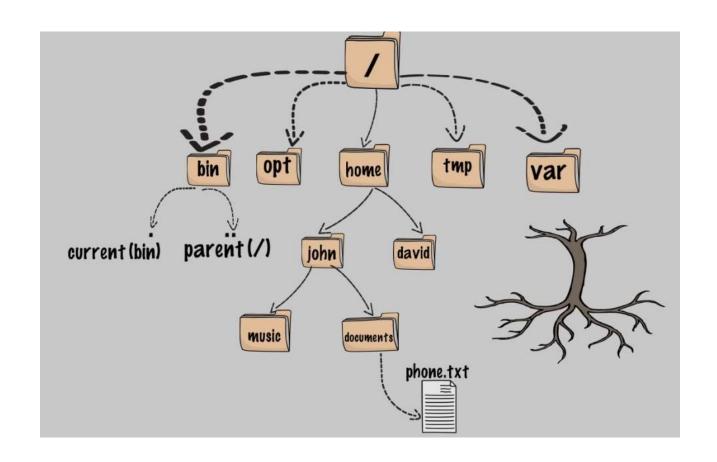
See Lesson Handout "04-Linux Directory Descriptions, incl File Locations.docx" for more comprehensive descriptions listings.

This document will, in detail, describe the Directories in the tree, and will also give information as to the location and description of very important Linux system files.

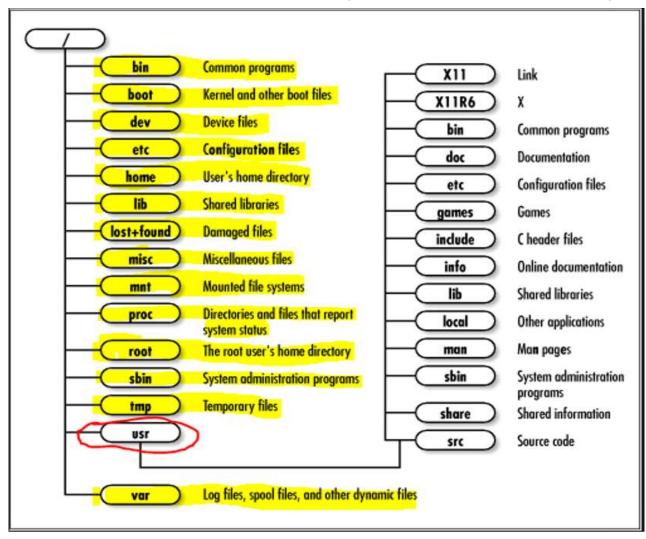
The Linux Directory Tree - graphical breakdown



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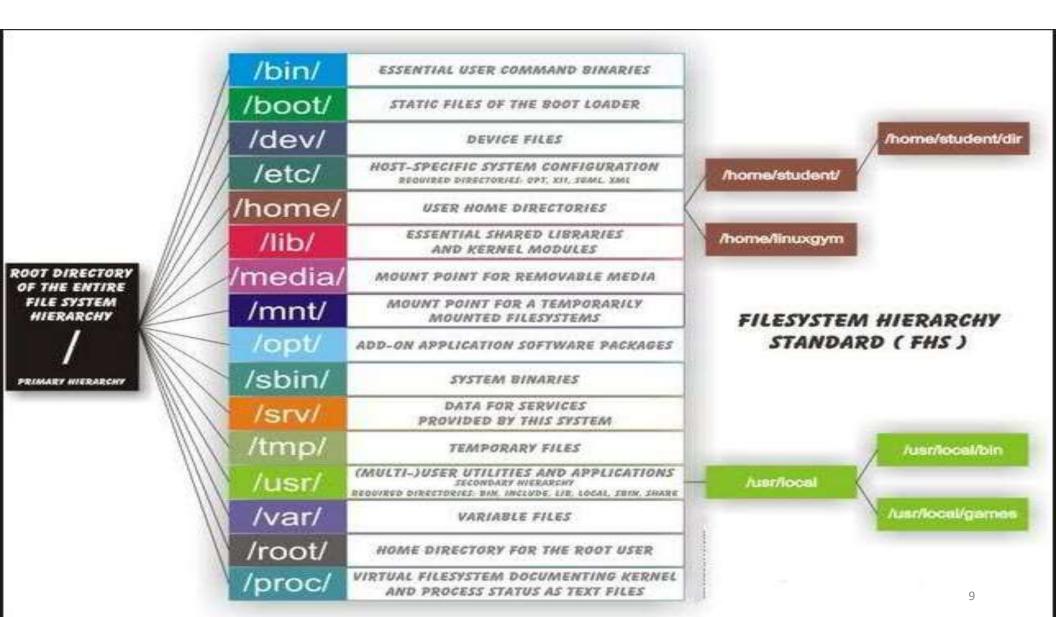
The Linux Directory Tree – directory descriptions



Note: Unlike Windows, Linux does NOT use drive letters to designate mounted volumes. Disks are in /dev and mounted filesystems are in /mnt

Note the absence of the /cdrom directory found in older distros

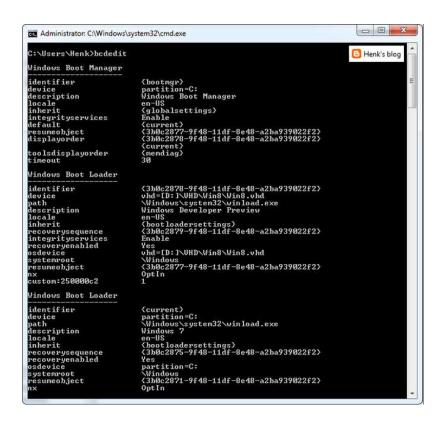
Note: The **usr** directory contains the Multi-User Utilities and Applications



Technical Comparisons - Bootloader Configurations

Microsoft NTDLR editor

Bcdedit



Linux configuration files

- /etc/lilo.conf
- /boot/grub/grub.conf



<u>File Edit Options Help</u>

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