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How to count lines in a document?

Microsoft Azure



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I have lines like these, and I want to know how many lines I actually have...

```
09:16:39 AM all 2.00 0.00 4.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
94.00
09:16:40 AM all 5.00 0.00 0.00 4.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
91.00
09:16:41 AM all 0.00 0.00 4.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
96.00
09:16:42 AM all 3.00 0.00 1.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
96.00
09:16:43 AM all 0.00 0.00 1.00 0.00 1.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
98.00
09:16:44 AM all 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
100.00
09:16:45 AM all 2.00 0.00 6.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
92.00
```

Is there a way to count then using linux commands?

linux

bash

command-line

scripting

edited Nov 22 '14 at 17:32

 peter-b

579 3 20

asked Jun 29 '10 at 0:31

 Alucard

1,025 3 10 18


16 Answers

Use `wc` .

```
wc -l <file>
```

outputs the number of lines.

answered Jun 29 '10 at 0:33

 user85509

7,622 3 18 23

- Yea, but you get the stupid file name also. – GGB667 Mar 31 '14 at 13:48
- 7

this is great!! you might use awk to get rid of the file name appended to the line number as such: `wc -l <file> | awk '{print $1}'` – Chee How Apr 3 '14 at 4:25
- 17

Even shorter, you could do `wc -l < <filename>` – Tensigh May 16 '14 at 6:32
- This gives me one extra line then all the lines? – CMCDragonkai Jun 2 '14 at 5:33
- Tensigh's answer should be added to the accepted answer. – Carcamano Jun 6 '14 at 16:37

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Use

```
$ wc -l file
```

to count all line or

```
$ grep -w "pattern" -c file
```

to filter and count only lines with pattern, or with -v to invert match..

```
$ grep -w "pattern" -c -v file
```

See man grep to take a look in -e,-i and -x args...

edited Jun 29 '10 at 3:03

answered Jun 29 '10 at 0:42



olarva

856 8 12

```
wc -l <file.txt>
```

Or

```
command | wc -l
```

answered Jun 29 '10 at 0:33



John Kugelman

126k 26 237 308

there are many ways. using `wc` is one.

```
wc -l file
```

others include

```
awk 'END{print NR}' file
```

```
sed -n '$=' file (GNU sed)
```

```
grep -c ".*" file
```

answered Jun 29 '10 at 3:15



ghostdog74

99.1k 17 114 182

Yes, but `wc -l file` gives you the number of lines AND the filename to get just the filename you can do:
`filename.wc -l < /filepath/filename.ext` — GGB667 Nov 22 '13 at 15:00

Use `wc` :

```
wc -l <filename>
```

answered Jun 29 '10 at 0:34



Vivin Paliath

45.1k 18 103 170

`wc` is the "word counter" in UNIX and UNIX-like operating systems, you can to use it to count lines in a file, by adding the `-l` option, so `wc -l foo` will count the number of lines in `foo`. You can also pipe output from a program like this: `ls -l | wc -l`, which will tell you how many files are in the current directory.

edited Jun 15 '13 at 21:11

answered Apr 1 '13 at 13:37



theunamedguy

678 2 17

If all you want is the number of lines (and not the number of lines and the stupid file name coming back):

```
wc -l < /filepath/filename.ext
```

As previously mentioned these also work:

```
awk 'END{print NR}' file  
sed -n '$=' file (GNU sed)  
grep -c ".*" file
```

edited Nov 22 '13 at 14:59

answered Nov 15 '13 at 19:02



GGB667

472 3 13

Use syntax

"nl filename "

What nl do Write each FILE to standard output, with line numbers added. With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

answered Sep 6 '13 at 5:23



user1389735

26 3

Above are the preferred method but "cat" command can also helpful:

```
cat -n <filename>
```

Will show you whole content of file with line numbers.

answered Dec 13 '13 at 9:31



Yogi

343 1 12

Um, not good... – Buttle Butkus Jan 19 at 6:41

```
wc -l file.txt | cut -f3 -d" "
```

Returns only the number of lines

answered Apr 1 '14 at 17:19



Umur Kontaci

16k 3 38 65

Redirection/Piping the output of the file to "wc -l" should suffice, like the following: "cat /etc/fstab | wc -l" which then would provide the no. of lines only.

answered Jun 8 '14 at 13:00



user3719700

11 1

I just made a program to do this (with node)

```
npm install gimme-lines  
gimme-lines verbose --exclude=node_modules,public,vendor --exclude_extensions=html
```

<https://github.com/danschumann/gimme-lines/tree/master>

answered Nov 14 '14 at 21:30



Funkodebat

1,294 1 9 24

1 Isn't that like using an F16 to kill garden weeds? – [Buttle Butkus](#) Jan 19 at 6:49

sounds fun, and in this case, NO SCHRAPNEL! :) – [Funkodebat](#) Jan 20 at 4:06

If you want to check the total line of all the files in a directory ,you can use find and wc. `find . -type f -exec wc -l {} +`

answered Jan 19 at 1:16



[storen](#)

54 7

Using "myfile.txt" as an example.

I've been using this:

```
cat myfile.txt | wc -l
```

I prefer it over the accepted answer because it does not print the filename, and you don't have to use `awk` to fix that. Accepted answer:

```
wc -l myfile.txt
```

But I think the best one is GGB667's answer:

```
wc -l < myfile.txt
```

I will probably be using that from now on. It's slightly shorter than my way. I am putting up my old way of doing it in case anyone prefers it. The output is the same with those two methods.

answered Jan 19 at 6:48



[Buttle Butkus](#)

2,186 1 22 48

I saw this question while I was looking for a way to count multiple files lines, so if you want to count multiple file lines of a .txt file you can do this,

```
cat *.txt | wc -l
```

it will also run on one .txt file ;)

edited Mar 8 at 5:53

answered Mar 6 at 7:01



[talsibony](#)

602 6 14

This does not provide an answer to the question. To critique or request clarification from an author, leave a comment below their post. – [Kyle Strand](#) Mar 6 at 7:44

As others said `wc -l` is the best solution, but for future reference you can use Perl:

```
perl -lne 'END { print $. }'
```

`$.` contains line number and `END` block will execute at the end of script.

answered Dec 13 '13 at 7:15



[Majid Azimi](#)

1,538 1 20 54

Does not work: `dir | perl -lne 'END { print $. }'` Can't find string terminator "" anywhere before EOF at -e line 1. – [VeikkoW](#) Sep 18 '14 at 11:38