



Linux Commands (Find)

Linux Commands for Professional Environment

Find Command

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Linux Commands (Find)

FIND

The find command in Linux is a powerful tool for searching files and directories.

Here's a detailed explanation of its syntax, along with examples:

Basic Syntax

find [path] [expression]

[path]: The directory where the search begins. If not specified, the current directory (.) is used.

[expression]: Criteria to filter the search results, such as file name, type, size, etc.

Common Options and Expressions

-name: Search by file name.

find . -name "digitalk.txt"

This searches for files named digitalk.txt in the current directory and its subdirectories.

-type: Specify the type of file.

find /path/to/search -type d

This searches for directories (-type d) within /path/to/search.

-size: Search by file size.

find . -size +1M

This finds files larger than 1 megabyte in the current directory and its subdirectories.

find . -size -500k

This finds files smaller than 500 kilobytes.

-mtime: Search by modification time.

find . -mtime -7

This finds files modified within the last 7 days.

find . -mtime +30

This finds files modified more than 30 days ago.

-perm: Search by file permissions.

find . -perm 644

This finds files with exactly 644 permissions.

-user and -group: Search by file owner or group.

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```
find . -user username
```

This finds files owned by username.

```
find . -group groupname
```

This finds files belonging to groupname.

-exec: Execute a command on each matching file.

```
find . -name "*.log" -exec rm {} \;
```

This finds all .log files and deletes them. The {} is replaced by the current file name, and \; indicates the end of the command.

-maxdepth and **-mindepth:** Limit the search depth.

```
find . -maxdepth 2 -name "*.txt"
```

This finds .txt files within two directory levels from the current directory.

```
find . -mindepth 2 -name "*.txt"
```

This finds .txt files at least two directory levels deep.

Combining Expressions

You can combine multiple expressions to refine your search using logical operators like -and, -or, and ! (not).

-and: Combine expressions (default if no operator is specified).

```
find . -name "*.txt" -type f
```

This finds regular files (-type f) with a .txt extension.

-or: Either condition can be true.

```
find . -name "*.jpg" -or -name "*.png"
```

This finds files with either a .jpg or .png extension.

! (not): Negate an expression.

```
find . ! -name "*.txt"
```

This finds files that do not have a .txt extension.

Practical Examples

Find all .conf files owned by root:

```
find /etc -type f -name "*.conf" -user root
```

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Find all empty directories:

```
find . -type d -empty
```

Find and delete files larger than 100MB:

```
find . -type f -size +100M -exec rm {} \;
```

Find files modified in the last 24 hours:

```
find . -type f -mtime -1
```

Find all symbolic links:

```
find . -type l
```

Search for a File in the Current Directory

```
find . -maxdepth 1 -name "digitalk.txt"
```

This searches for digitalk.txt in the current directory only (not in subdirectories).

Search for a File Recursively in the Current and All Subdirectories

```
find . -name "digitalk.txt"
```

This searches for digitalk.txt in the current directory and all its subdirectories.

Find a String in All Files Recursively and Replace with Another String

You can combine find with grep and sed to find and replace strings.

```
find . -type f -exec grep -l "old_string" {} \; -exec sed -i 's/old_string/new_string/g' {} \;
```

This searches for files containing old_string and replaces it with new_string in those files.

Find and List All Files Larger than 100MB

```
find . -type f -size +100M
```

This lists all files larger than 100MB in the current directory and its subdirectories.

Find and Delete Empty Files

```
find . -type f -empty -delete
```

This deletes all empty files in the current directory and its subdirectories.

Find and Change Permissions of All .sh Files to Executable

```
find . -type f -name "*.sh" -exec chmod +x {} \;
```

This makes all .sh files executable.

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Find and Compress All .log Files

```
find . -type f -name "*.log" -exec gzip {} \;
```

This compresses all .log files using gzip.

Find and Move All .jpg Files to Another Directory

```
find . -type f -name "*.jpg" -exec mv {} /path/to/destination/ \;
```

This moves all .jpg files to the specified destination directory.

Find and Delete Files Older than 30 Days

```
find . -type f -mtime +30 -exec rm {} \;
```

This deletes files that have not been modified in the last 30 days.

Find All Directories Named "backup" and List Their Contents

```
find . -type d -name "backup" -exec ls -l {} \;
```

This lists the contents of all directories named "backup".

Find and Count All .txt Files

```
find . -type f -name "*.txt" | wc -l
```

This counts the number of .txt files in the current directory and its subdirectories.

Find Files with Specific Permissions and Change Ownership

```
find . -type f -perm 644 -exec chown newuser:newgroup {} \;
```

This changes the owner and group of all files with 644 permissions.

Find and Print Files Modified in the Last 7 Days

```
find . -type f -mtime -7 -print
```

This prints the paths of all files modified in the last 7 days.

Find Symbolic Links and Show Their Targets

```
find . -type l -exec ls -l {} \;
```

This shows the target of each symbolic link.

Find and Remove All .tmp Files

```
find . -type f -name "*.tmp" -delete
```

This deletes all .tmp files.



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