



Linux Ubuntu 22.4.5 Manual Pages on command 'locate.1'

\$ man locate.1

locate(1) General Commands Manual locate(1)

NAME

locate - find files by name

SYNOPSIS

locate [OPTION]... PATTERN...

DESCRIPTION

locate reads one or more databases prepared by updatedb(8) and writes file names matching at least one of the PATTERNs to standard output, one per line.

If --regex is not specified, PATTERNs can contain globbing characters. If any PAT?

TERN contains no globbing characters, locate behaves as if the pattern were *PAT?

TERN*.

By default, locate does not check whether files found in database still exist (but

it does require all parent directories to exist if the database was built with

--require-visibility no). locate can never report files created after the most re?

cent update of the relevant database.

EXIT STATUS

locate exits with status 0 if any match was found or if locate was invoked with one

of the --limit 0, --help, --statistics or --version options. If no match was found

or a fatal error was encountered, locate exits with status 1.

Errors encountered while reading a database are not fatal, search continues in

other specified databases, if any.

OPTIONS

-A, --all

Print only entries that match all PATTERNS instead of requiring only one of them to match.

-b, --basename

Match only the base name against the specified patterns. This is the opposite of --wholename.

-c, --count

Instead of writing file names on standard output, write the number of matching entries only.

-d, --database DBPATH

Replace the default database with DBPATH. DBPATH is a colon-separated list of database file names. If more than one --database option is specified, the resulting path is a concatenation of the separate paths.

An empty database file name is replaced by the default database. A database file name - refers to the standard input. Note that a database can be read from the standard input only once.

-e, --existing

Print only entries that refer to files existing at the time locate is run.

-L, --follow

When checking whether files exist (if the --existing option is specified), follow trailing symbolic links. This causes broken symbolic links to be omitted from the output.

This is the default behavior. The opposite can be specified using --nofollow.

-h, --help

Write a summary of the available options to standard output and exit successfully.

-i, --ignore-case

Ignore case distinctions when matching patterns.

-p, --ignore-spaces

Ignore punctuation and spaces when matching patterns.

-t, --transliterate

Ignore accents using iconv transliteration when matching patterns.

-l, --limit, -n LIMIT

Exit successfully after finding LIMIT entries. If the --count option is specified, the resulting count is also limited to LIMIT.

-m, --mmap

Ignored, for compatibility with BSD and GNU locate.

-P, --nofollow, -H

When checking whether files exist (if the --existing option is specified), do not follow trailing symbolic links. This causes broken symbolic links to be reported like other files.

This is the opposite of --follow.

-0, --null

Separate the entries on output using the ASCII NUL character instead of writing each entry on a separate line. This option is designed for interoperability with the --null option of GNU xargs(1).

-S, --statistics

Write statistics about each read database to standard output instead of searching for files and exit successfully.

-q, --quiet

Write no messages about errors encountered while reading and processing databases.

-r, --regexp REGEXP

Search for a basic regexp REGEXP. No PATTERNS are allowed if this option is used, but this option can be specified multiple times.

--regex

Interpret all PATTERNS as extended regexps.

-s, --stdio

Ignored, for compatibility with BSD and GNU locate.

-V, --version

Write information about the version and license of locate on standard output and exit successfully.

-w, --wholename

Match only the whole path name against the specified patterns.

This is the default behavior. The opposite can be specified using --base?

name.

EXAMPLES

To search for a file named exactly NAME (not *NAME*), use

```
locate -b 'NAME'
```

Because \ is a globbing character, this disables the implicit replacement of NAME by *NAME*.

FILES

/var/lib/mlocate/mlocate.db

The database searched by default.

ENVIRONMENT

LOCATE_PATH

Path to additional databases, added after the default database or the data? bases specified using the --database option.

NOTES

The order in which the requested databases are processed is unspecified, which allows locate to reorder the database path for security reasons.

locate attempts to be compatible to slocate (without the options used for creating databases) and GNU locate, in that order. This is the reason for the impractical default --follow option and for the confusing set of --regex and --regexp options.

The short spelling of the -r option is incompatible to GNU locate, where it corresponds to the --regex option. Use the long option names to avoid confusion.

The LOCATE_PATH environment variable replaces the default database in BSD and GNU locate, but it is added to other databases in this implementation and slocate.

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SEE ALSO

updatedb(8), iconv(1),

mlocate

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locate(1)