locate(1) General Commands Manual locate(1)

NAME

plocate - find files by name, quickly

SYNOPSIS

plocate [OPTION]... PATTERN...

DESCRIPTION

plocate finds all files on the system matching the given pattern (or all of the patterns if multiple are given). It does this by means of an index made by updatedb(8) or (less commonly) converted from another in? dex by plocate-build(8).

plocate is largely argument-compatible with mlocate(1), but is signifi? cantly faster. In particular, it rarely needs to scan through its en? tire database, unless the pattern is very short (less than three bytes) or you want to search for a regular expression. It does not try to maintain compatibility with BSD locate, or non-UTF-8 filenames and lo? cales. Most I/O is done asynchronously, but the results are synchro? nized so that output comes in the same order every time.

When multiple patterns are given, plocate will search for files that match all of them. This is the main incompatibility with mlocate(1),

option is given.

By default, patterns are taken to be substrings to search for. If at least one non-escaped globbing metacharacter (*, ? or []) is given, that pattern is instead taken to be a glob pattern (which means it needs to start and end in * for a substring match). If --regexp is given, patterns are instead taken to be (non-anchored) POSIX basic reg? ular expressions, and if --regex is given, patterns are taken to be POSIX extended regular expressions. All of this matches mlocate(1) be? havior.

Like mlocate(1), plocate shows all files visible to the calling user (by virtue of having read and execute permissions on all parent direc? tories), and none that are not, by means of running with the setgid bit set to access the index (which is built as root), but by testing visi? bility as the calling user.

EXIT STATUS

plocate exits with 0 to indicate that a match was found or that --help or --version were passed. Otherwise, plocate exits with status code 1, indicating that an error occurred or that no matches were found.

OPTIONS

-A, --all

-b, --basename

Match only against the file name portion of the path name, ie., the directory names will be excluded from the match (but still printed). This does not speed up the search, but can suppress uninteresting matches.

-c, --count

Do not print each match. Instead, count them, and print out a total number at the end.

-d, --database DBPATH

Find matches in the given database, instead of /var/lib/plo? cate/plocate.db. This argument can be given multiple times, to search multiple databases. It is also possible to give multiple databases in one argument, separated by :. (Any character, in? cluding : and \, can be escaped by prepending a \.)

-e, --existing

Print only entries that refer to files existing at the time lo? cate is run. Note that unlike mlocate(1), symlinks are not fol? lowed by default (and indeed, there is no option to change this).

Do a case-insensitive match as given by the current locale (de? fault is case-sensitive, byte-by-byte match). Note that plocate does not support the full range of Unicode case folding rules; in particular, searching for ? will not give you matches on ss even in a German locale. Also note that this option will be somewhat slower than a case-sensitive match, since it needs to generate more candidates for searching the index.

-p, --ignore-spaces

Ignore punctuation and spaces when matching patterns.

-l, --limit LIMIT

Stop searching after LIMIT matches have been found. If --count is given, the number printed out will be at most LIMIT.

-N, --literal

Print entry names without quoting. Normally, plocate will escape special characters in filenames, so that they are safe for con? sumption by typical shells (similar to the GNU coreutils shell-escape-always quoting style), unless printing to a pipe, but this options will turn off such quoting.

-0, --null

Instead of writing a newline after every match, write a NUL

it is to be processed by other tools (like xargs(1)), as file? names are allowed to contain embedded newlines.

-r, --regexp

Patterns are taken to be POSIX basic regular expressions. See regex(7) for more information. Note that this forces a linear scan through the entire database, which is slow.

--regex

Like --regexp, but patterns are instead taken to be POSIX ex? tended regular expressions.

-w, --wholename

Match against the entire path name. This is the default, so un? less -b is given first (see above), it will not do anything. This option thus exists only as compatibility with mlocate(1).

--help Print out usage information, then exit successfully.

--version

Print out version information, then exit successfully.

ENVIRONMENT

LOCATE_PATH

an explicit is given or the default is used). Colon-delimiting and character escaping follows the same rules as for --database.

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SEE ALSO

plocate-build(8), mlocate(1), updatedb(8)