

Linux UBUNTU Manual Pages

WHEREIS(1)

User Commands

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NAME

whereis - locate the binary, source, and manual page files for a command

SYNOPSIS

whereis [options] [-BMS directory... -f] name...

DESCRIPTION

whereis locates the binary, source and manual files for the specified command names. The supplied names are first stripped of leading pathname components. Prefixes of **s.** resulting from use of source code control are also dealt with. **whereis** then attempts to locate the desired program in the standard Linux places, and in the places specified by **\$PATH** and **\$MANPATH**.

The search restrictions (options **-b**, **-m** and **-s**) are cumulative and apply to the subsequent name patterns on the command line. Any new search restriction resets the search mask. For example,

```
whereis -bm ls tr -m gcc
```

searches for "ls" and "tr" binaries and man pages, and for "gcc" man

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The options **-B**, **-M** and **-S** reset search paths for the subsequent name patterns. For example,

```
whereis -m ls -M /usr/share/man/man1 -f cal
```

searches for "ls" man pages in all default paths, but for "cal" in the `/usr/share/man/man1` directory only.

OPTIONS

-b

Search for binaries.

-m

Search for manuals.

-s

Search for sources.

-u

Only show the command names that have unusual entries. A command is said to be unusual if it does not have just one entry of each explicitly requested type. Thus `'whereis -m -u *'` asks for those files in the current directory which have no documentation file, or

-B list

Limit the places where whereis searches for binaries, by a whitespace-separated list of directories.

-M list

Limit the places where whereis searches for manuals and documentation in Info format, by a whitespace-separated list of directories.

-S list

Limit the places where whereis searches for sources, by a whitespace-separated list of directories.

-f

Terminates the directory list and signals the start of filenames.
It must be used when any of the -B, -M, or -S options is used.

-l

Output the list of effective lookup paths that whereis is using.
When none of -B, -M, or -S is specified, the option will output the hard-coded paths that the command was able to find on the system.

-g

compares only filenames (aka basename) and never complete path. Using directory names in the pattern has no effect. Don't forget that the shell interprets the pattern when specified on the command line without quotes. It's necessary to use quotes for the name, for example:

```
whereis -g 'find*'
```

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

-V, --version

Print version and exit.

FILE SEARCH PATHS

By default whereis tries to find files from hard-coded paths, which are defined with glob patterns. The command attempts to use the contents of \$PATH and \$MANPATH environment variables as default search path. The easiest way to know what paths are in use is to add the -l listing option. Effects of the -B, -M, and -S are displayed with -l.

ENVIRONMENT

WHEREIS_DEBUG=all

enables debug output.

EXAMPLES

To find all files in `/usr/bin` which are not documented in `/usr/man/man1` or have no source in `/usr/src`:

```
cd /usr/bin
```

```
whereis -u -ms -M /usr/man/man1 -S /usr/src -f *
```

REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at <https://github.com/util-linux/util-linux/issues>.

AVAILABILITY

The `whereis` command is part of the `util-linux` package which can be downloaded from Linux Kernel Archive [<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>](https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/).

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