



Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'which.1' command

\$ man which.1

WHICH(1) General Commands Manual WHICH(1)

NAME

which - shows the full path of (shell) commands.

SYNOPSIS

which [options] [--] programname [...]

DESCRIPTION

Which takes one or more arguments. For each of its arguments it prints to stdout the full path of the executables that would have been executed when this argument had been entered at the shell prompt. It does this by searching for an executable or script in the directories listed in the environment variable PATH using the same algorithm as bash(1). This man page is generated from the file which.texinfo.

OPTIONS

--all, -a

Print all matching executables in PATH, not just the first.

--read-alias, -i

Read aliases from stdin, reporting matching ones on stdout. This is useful in combination with using an alias for which itself. For example
alias which=?alias | which -i?.

--skip-alias

Ignore option `--read-alias?', if any. This is useful to explicitly search for normal binaries, while using the `--read-alias?' option

in an alias or function for which.

`--read-functions`

Read shell function definitions from stdin, reporting matching ones on stdout. This is useful in combination with using a shell func?

tion for which itself. For example:

```
which() { declare -f | which --read-functions $@ }
```

```
export -f which
```

`--skip-functions`

Ignore option `--read-functions?`, if any. This is useful to explic?

ity search for normal binaries, while using the `--read-functions?`

option in an alias or function for which.

`--skip-dot`

Skip directories in PATH that start with a dot.

`--skip-tilde`

Skip directories in PATH that start with a tilde and executables

which reside in the HOME directory.

`--show-dot`

If a directory in PATH starts with a dot and a matching executable was found for that path, then print `./programname` rather than the full path.

`--show-tilde`

Output a tilde when a directory matches the HOME directory. This option is ignored when which is invoked as root.

`--tty-only`

Stop processing options on the right if not on tty.

`--version,-v,-V`

Print version information on standard output then exit successfully.

`--help`

Print usage information on standard output then exit successfully.

RETURN VALUE

Which returns the number of failed arguments, or -1 when no `program? name?` was given.

EXAMPLE

The recommended way to use this utility is by adding an alias (C shell)
or shell function (Bourne shell) for which like the following:

[ba]sh:

```
which ()  
{  
    (alias; declare -f) | /usr/bin/which --tty-only --read-alias --read-functions --show-tilde --show-dot $@  
}  
export -f which
```

[t]csh:

```
alias which ?alias | /usr/bin/which --tty-only --read-alias --show-dot --show-tilde?
```

This will print the readable ~/ and ./ when starting which from your
prompt, while still printing the full path when used from a script:

```
> which q2  
~/bin/q2  
> echo `which q2`  
/home/carlo/bin/q2
```

BUGS

The HOME directory is determined by looking for the HOME environment
variable, which aborts when this variable doesn't exist. Which will
consider two equivalent directories to be different when one of them
contains a path with a symbolic link.

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SEE ALSO

bash(1)

WHICH(1)