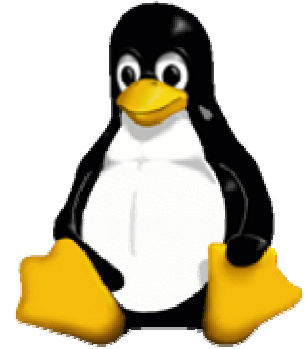




# OPERATING SYSTEMS



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## Finding Files

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Sometime you have needs to find some files.

You could go looking through directories, but there are quicker ways.

There are four main file search commands available in Slackware.

### **which**

The **which** command is usually used to locate a program quickly. It just searches your PATH and returns the first instance it finds and the directory path to it.

**which name**



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For example:

**which bash**

`/bin/bash`

From that you see that bash is in the /bin directory. This is a very limited command for searching, since it only searches your PATH.



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## **whereis**

The **whereis** command works similar to **which**, but can also search for man pages and source files.

For example:

```
$ whereis bash
```

```
bash: /bin/bash /usr/bin/bash  
/usr/man/man1/bash.1.gz
```

This command not only told us where the actual program, but also where the online documentation is stored. Still, this command is limited.



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What if you wanted to search for a specific configuration file?

You can't use **which** or **whereis** for that.

### **find**

The **find** command will search for anything.

We want to search the entire system for the default **sample** file on the system.

```
find / -name sample  
(find "where" "what")
```

If you run this command as a normal user, you will probably get permission denied error messages for directories that only root can see.



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### **locate**

The **locate** command searches the entire filesystem just like the `find` command can do, but it searches a database instead of the actual filesystem.

The database is set to automatically update at 4:40AM, so you have a somewhat fresh listing of files on your system. You can manually run `updatedb(1)` to update the `locate` database (before running `updatedb` by hand, you must first `su` to the `nobody` user). Here's an example of `locate` in action:

```
$ locate xinitrc # we don't have to go to the root
```



## Example 1:

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- Locate file **inetd.config**
- In your HOME directory find files which name start with letter **n**
- List of all files from / directory (and subdirectories) which finished with **.conf** put into file **conf\_file** in your HOME.
- Where is file **passwd** in our filesystem?



## Example 2:

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Try to find how **grep** command works.

- In your filesystem find files which consist word "set" .
- In your HOME find files which consist phrase "name"