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 *PATTERN*s to standard output, one per line.

If **--regex** is not specified, *PATTERN*s can contain globbing characters. If any *PATTERN* contains no globbing characters, **locate** behaves as if the pattern were ***PATTERN***.

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 recent 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 *PATTERN*s 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 **:**-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.

-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 *PATTERN*s are allowed if this option is used, but this option can be specified multiple times.

--regex
>   Interpret all *PATTERN*s 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 **--basename**.

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 databases 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)