

**NAME**

File::Glob - Perl extension for BSD glob routine

**SYNOPSIS**

```
use File::Glob 'bsd_glob';

@list = bsd_glob('*.ch');
$homedir = bsd_glob('gnat', GLOB_TILDE | GLOB_ERR);

if (GLOB_ERROR) {
# an error occurred reading $homedir
}

## override the core glob (CORE::glob() does this automatically
## by default anyway, since v5.6.0)
use File::Glob 'globally';
my @sources = <*.{c,h,y}>;

## override the core glob, forcing case sensitivity
use File::Glob qw(:globally :case);
my @sources = <*.{c,h,y}>;

## override the core glob forcing case insensitivity
use File::Glob qw(:globally :nocase);
my @sources = <*.{c,h,y}>;

## glob on all files in home directory
use File::Glob 'globally';
my @sources = <gnat/*>;
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The glob angle-bracket operator <> is a pathname generator that implements the rules for file name pattern matching used by Unix-like shells such as the Bourne shell or C shell.

*File::Glob::bsd\_glob()* implements the FreeBSD *glob(3)* routine, which is a superset of the POSIX *glob()* (described in IEEE Std 1003.2 “POSIX.2”). *bsd\_glob()* takes a mandatory **pattern** argument, and an optional **flags** argument, and returns a list of filenames matching the pattern, with interpretation of the pattern modified by the **flags** variable.

Since v5.6.0, Perl’s *CORE::glob()* is implemented in terms of *bsd\_glob()*. Note that they don’t share the same prototype—*CORE::glob()* only accepts a single argument. Due to historical reasons, *CORE::glob()* will also split its argument on whitespace, treating it as multiple patterns, whereas *bsd\_glob()* considers them as one pattern. But see *:bsd\_glob* under “EXPORTS”, below.

**META CHARACTERS**

```
\ Quote the next metacharacter
[] Character class
{} Multiple pattern
* Match any string of characters
? Match any single character
User name home directory
```

The metanotation *a{b,c,d}e* is a shorthand for *abe ace ade*. Left to right order is preserved, with results of matches being sorted separately at a low level to preserve this order. As a special case *{, }*, and *{ }* are passed undisturbed.

**EXPORTS**

See also the “POSIX FLAGS” below, which can be exported individually.

**:bsd\_glob**

The `:bsd_glob` export tag exports `bsd_glob()` and the constants listed below. It also overrides `glob()` in the calling package with one that behaves like `bsd_glob()` with regard to spaces (the space is treated as part of a file name), but supports iteration in scalar context; i.e., it preserves the core function's feature of returning the next item each time it is called.

**:glob**

The `:glob` tag, now discouraged, is the old version of `:bsd_glob`. It exports the same constants and functions, but its `glob()` override does not support iteration; it returns the last file name in scalar context. That means this will loop forever:

```
use File::Glob ':glob';
while (my $file = <* copy.txt>) {
    ...
}
```

**bsd\_glob**

This function, which is included in the two export tags listed above, takes one or two arguments. The first is the glob pattern. The second is a set of flags ORed together. The available flags are listed below under “POSIX FLAGS”. If the second argument is omitted, `GLOB_CSH` (or `GLOB_CSH|GLOB_NOCASE` on VMS and DOSish systems) is used by default.

**:nocase and :case**

These two export tags globally modify the default flags that `bsd_glob()` and, except on VMS, Perl's built-in `glob` operator use. `GLOB_NOCASE` is turned on or off, respectively.

**csH\_glob**

The `csH_glob()` function can also be exported, but you should not use it directly unless you really know what you are doing. It splits the pattern into words and feeds each one to `bsd_glob()`. Perl's own `glob()` function uses this internally.

**POSIX FLAGS**

The POSIX defined flags for `bsd_glob()` are:

**GLOB\_ERR**

Force `bsd_glob()` to return an error when it encounters a directory it cannot open or read. Ordinarily `bsd_glob()` continues to find matches.

**GLOB\_LIMIT**

Make `bsd_glob()` return an error (`GLOB_NOSPACE`) when the pattern expands to a size bigger than the system constant `ARG_MAX` (usually found in `limits.h`). If your system does not define this constant, `bsd_glob()` uses `sysconf(_SC_ARG_MAX)` or `_POSIX_ARG_MAX` where available (in that order). You can inspect these values using the standard POSIX extension.

**GLOB\_MARK**

Each pathname that is a directory that matches the pattern has a slash appended.

**GLOB\_NOCASE**

By default, file names are assumed to be case sensitive; this flag makes `bsd_glob()` treat case differences as not significant.

**GLOB\_NOCHECK**

If the pattern does not match any pathname, then `bsd_glob()` returns a list consisting of only the pattern. If `GLOB_QUOTE` is set, its effect is present in the pattern returned.

**GLOB\_NOSORT**

By default, the pathnames are sorted in ascending ASCII order; this flag prevents that sorting (speeding up `bsd_glob()`).

The FreeBSD extensions to the POSIX standard are the following flags:

**GLOB\_BRACE**

Pre-process the string to expand `{pat,pat,...}` strings like *cs(1)*. The pattern `'{'` is left unexpanded for historical reasons (and *cs(1)* does the same thing to ease typing of *find(1)* patterns).

**GLOB\_NOMAGIC**

Same as **GLOB\_NOCHECK** but it only returns the pattern if it does not contain any of the special characters `"**"`, `"?"` or `"["`. **NOMAGIC** is provided to simplify implementing the historic *cs(1)* globbing behaviour and should probably not be used anywhere else.

**GLOB\_QUOTE**

Use the backslash (`'\'`) character for quoting: every occurrence of a backslash followed by a character in the pattern is replaced by that character, avoiding any special interpretation of the character. (But see below for exceptions on DOSISH systems).

**GLOB\_TILDE**

Expand patterns that start with `'~'` to user name home directories.

**GLOB\_CSH**

For convenience, **GLOB\_CSH** is a synonym for **GLOB\_BRACE** | **GLOB\_NOMAGIC** | **GLOB\_QUOTE** | **GLOB\_TILDE** | **GLOB\_ALPHASORT**.

The POSIX provided **GLOB\_APPEND**, **GLOB\_DOOFFS**, and the FreeBSD extensions **GLOB\_ALTDIRFUNC**, and **GLOB\_MAGCHAR** flags have not been implemented in the Perl version because they involve more complex interaction with the underlying C structures.

The following flag has been added in the Perl implementation for *cs* compatibility:

**GLOB\_ALPHASORT**

If **GLOB\_NOSORT** is not in effect, sort filenames in alphabetical order (case does not matter) rather than in ASCII order.

**DIAGNOSTICS**

*bsd\_glob()* returns a list of matching paths, possibly zero length. If an error occurred, `&File::Glob::GLOB_ERROR` will be non-zero and `#!` will be set. `&File::Glob::GLOB_ERROR` is guaranteed to be zero if no error occurred, or one of the following values otherwise:

**GLOB\_NOSPACE**

An attempt to allocate memory failed.

**GLOB\_ABEND**

The glob was stopped because an error was encountered.

In the case where *bsd\_glob()* has found some matching paths, but is interrupted by an error, it will return a list of filenames **and** set `&File::Glob::ERROR`.

Note that *bsd\_glob()* deviates from POSIX and FreeBSD *glob(3)* behaviour by not considering **ENOENT** and **ENOTDIR** as errors - *bsd\_glob()* will continue processing despite those errors, unless the **GLOB\_ERR** flag is set.

Be aware that all filenames returned from [File::Glob](#) are tainted.

**NOTES**

- If you want to use multiple patterns, e.g. `bsd_glob("a* b*")`, you should probably throw them in a set as in `bsd_glob("{a*,b*}")`. This is because the argument to *bsd\_glob()* isn't subjected to parsing by the C shell. Remember that you can use a backslash to escape things.
- On DOSISH systems, backslash is a valid directory separator character. In this case, use of backslash as a quoting character (via **GLOB\_QUOTE**) interferes with the use of backslash as a directory separator. The best (simplest, most portable) solution is to use forward slashes for directory separators, and backslashes for quoting. However, this does not match "normal practice" on these systems. As a concession to user expectation, therefore, backslashes (under

GLOB\_QUOTE) only quote the glob metacharacters '[', ']', '{', '}', '-', '~', and backslash itself. All other backslashes are passed through unchanged.

- Win32 users should use the real slash. If you really want to use backslashes, consider using Sarathy's [File::DosGlob](#), which comes with the standard Perl distribution.

## SEE ALSO

“glob” in [perlfunc\(1\)](#), [glob\(3\)](#)

## AUTHOR

The Perl interface was written by Nathan Torkington <gnat@frii.com>, and is released under the artistic license. Further modifications were made by Greg Bacon <gbacon@cs.uah.edu>, Gurusamy Sarathy <gsar@activestate.com>, and Thomas Wegner <wegner\_thomas@yahoo.com>. The C glob code has the following copyright:

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