

findstr a grep alternative for Windows

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Introduction

In Linux, you can filter the return from a command using grep, so if you typed in something that produces pages of responses, like lspci, you can then search using grep.

For example. In linux, using Kubernetes I can issue the following command:

```
kubectl -n mediakind get pods
```

The response will be:

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
encoding-live-ui-connector-7fd56f5f49-nm8xw	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
internal-pois-resiliency-54b7457b4b-mk8qh	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
automation-proxy-primary-d59bd7d59-p2x4r	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
stream-processor-simulcrypt-779bd9c84d-qjghj	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
stream-processor-statmux-668475d9d8-n2b24	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
encoding-live-config-d8d46bcc-s4pzf	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
stream-processor-mux-68985b79cf-b8m8r	2/2	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
mongo-operator-5876548666-2nx6v	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
command-77d97549b6-gl5wv	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
statistic-7f86d854dc-jx4c9	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
kps-agent-operator-7ffc49bb56-bccz8	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
stream-processor-asi-7d8b68d7b7-xbh92	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
controller-metrics-exporter-55445c799b-cfhr7	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
srt-worker-launcher-dcf66587-vg288	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
ipmi-exporter-5b9bbcf8bd-r7868	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
aquila-crpm-tools-5d9cf76b-28g5h	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
automation-proxy-secondary-768fd9bc48-ldf9j	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
stream-processor-ui-connector-847c9dcf6b-4js4p	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
stream-processor-biss-ca-5b65ff775b-wd5g2	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
live-sources-config-6f484978bb-9t66m	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
alarm-legacy-56785c8649-7592l	2/2	Running	4 (76d ago)	76d
kps-prometheus-node-exporter-msvzd	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
fluent-bit-6f974c7f5b-mk9k2	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
api-gateway-559fc7bd7d-nlxbn	2/2	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
encoding-live-worker-54ccbb-tbptk	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
alertmanager-kps-alertmanager-0	2/2	Running	4 (76d ago)	76d
alarm-5d8898c89c-khzs8	3/3	Running	6 (76d ago)	76d
template-api-7486b595d8-cn55x	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
server-monitor-66869c694-c2wwj	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
server-daemon-6bffc8df5-282kc	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
etcd-controller1-0	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
mongodb-replicaset-controller1-0	2/2	Running	4 (76d ago)	76d
redis-67b9f55655-645zm	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
metrics-grafana-5ff6669d44-2gwlr	3/3	Running	6 (76d ago)	76d
prom-agent-kps-agent-prometheus-0	2/2	Running	4 (76d ago)	76d
kps-kube-state-metrics-55497f5b9f-4dwqp	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
stream-processor-content-extraction-5ffc9cc565-s7hlw	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
server-api-7795b4f985-bm8d8	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-vod-ui-connector-5df89f46bb-pdv7m	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-cleanup-agent-6d74fcf646-dmscp	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-recorder-ui-connector-5668f86b-q5gd9	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-dvr-auto-669bd74d86-wzvsp	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
support-package-55f7645d79-q4gpq	2/2	Running	4 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-asset-recorder-94884c846-ncmjx	2/2	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
rabbitmq-ha-controller1-0	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
alarm-adapter-85bc8bcd66-xpc9b	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
prometheus-kps-prometheus-0	2/2	Running	4 (76d ago)	76d

snmp-notification-96948bc45-gdlkm	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-dynamic-ui-connector-b64986898-c9jn6	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
unified-ui-c7554fb59-xc8g9	3/3	Running	6 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-config-d644cf946-gwf6h	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
srt-config-5784dd8f46-2twbd	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
alarm-proxy-54fdfbcf6b-28r28	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
stream-processor-config-766fdb8c96-nb2nl	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
esam-proxy-56d6d4689d-9gp5j	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
service-api-dbc74c6fc-s9wln	2/2	Running	4 (76d ago)	76d
flow-5797b66959-82qms	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
interface-discovery-99d6bcff9-2gsgl	1/1	Running	2 (76d ago)	76d
srt-ui-connector-6f6bdbd4c9-f2qtd	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-dvr-recorder-7b65cf774b-tx972	3/3	Running	3 (76d ago)	76d
failover-api-745685c8d7-5872v	3/3	Running	6 (76d ago)	76d
packaging-origin-server-64b75c54ff-pd4wh	7/7	Running	7 (76d ago)	76d
license-manager-0	2/2	Running	5 (76d ago)	76d

However, If I was only interested in say 'srt' I could use grep to filter the response.

```
kubectl -n mediakind get pods |grep srt
```

This would return just any lines that contain 'srt'

srt-worker-launcher-dcf66587-vg288	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
srt-config-5784dd8f46-2twbd	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d
srt-ui-connector-6f6bdbd4c9-f2qtd	1/1	Running	1 (76d ago)	76d

So grep is a fantastic tool for this, however, grep is not in Windows.

findstr

What is in Windows (and I am using Windows 11-21H2, which is quite old) is something called 'findstr'. The syntax for findstr is very similar. Please bear in mind that grep may do more things that findstr, I am just using this one use case of filtering results from issued commands.

kubectl -n medikind get pods findstr srt				
srt-fe7a53f67-srt-worker-launcher-54796fb846-r8mpz	2/2	Running	0	58m
srt-mux-vvltle-main-egress-srt-mux-vvltle-main-6756b5b7d-z52ng	2/2	Running	0	22m
srt-mux-vvltle-main-srt-worker-launcher-68bfccb69c-94vsq	2/2	Running	0	23m

So findstr works very well in this use case.

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