

Using GREP

Grep is a super useful tool, but it is difficult to master, so in this section we are going to explore some examples of the use of GREP. Grep can be as complex as your imagination can muster, but some very simple examples of Grep use will get you started nicely.

The name, "grep", derives from the command used to perform a similar operation, using the Unix/Linux text editor ed: [g/re/p](#)

grep command syntax

The syntax is as follows:

```
grep 'word' filename
grep 'word' file1 file2 file3
grep 'string1 string2' filename
cat otherfile | grep 'something'
command | grep 'something'
command option1 | grep 'data'
grep --color 'data' filename
```

How do I use grep command to search a file?

Search /etc/passwd file for boo user, enter:

```
grep pi /etc/passwd
returns: pi:x:1000:1000:::/home/pi:/bin/bash (the two instances of the word 'pi' will be coloured.)
```

You can force grep to ignore word case i.e match boo, Boo, BOO and all other combinations with the -i option:

```
grep -i "pi" /etc/passwd
This will return the word pi, PI, pI or Pi (all case combinations are allowed)
```

Use grep recursively

You can search recursively i.e. read all files under each directory for a string "192.168.1.5"

```
grep -r "192.168.1.5" /etc/
or
grep -R "192.168.1.5" /etc/
example return: /etc/dhcpd.conf:static ip_address=192.168.1.5/24
```

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