

Search in directories on ubuntu

Locating Files by Name

The most common use of `find` is in the search for a specific file by use of its name. The following command searches the home directory and all of its subdirectories looking for the file `mysong.ogg`:

```
[crayon-66361ca95f977975158883/]
```

It is important to get into the habit of quoting patterns in your search as seen above or your search results can be a little unpredictable. Such a search can be much more sophisticated though. For example if you wished to search for *all* of the ogg files in your home directory, some of which you think might be named 'OGG' rather than 'ogg', you would run:

```
[crayon-66361ca95f97f791022963/]
```

Here the option '`-iname`' performs a case-insensitive search while the wildcard character '`*`' matches any character, or number of characters, or zero characters. To perform the same search on your *entire drive* you would run:

```
[crayon-66361ca95f981242106070/]
```

This could be a slow search depending on the number of directories, sub-directories and files on your system. This highlights an important difference in the way that `find` operates in that it examines the system *directly* each time unlike programs like `locate` or `slocate` which actually examine a regularly updated *database* of filenames and locations.