

How to use Isof command on Linux

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If everything in Linux is a file, you'll have more than just the file on your hard drive. This article will show you how to use the Isof command to see all other devices and processes processed as a file.

1. Basic Linux commands everyone needs to know
2. 7 commands to manipulate the most basic files and folders everyone must know
3. Search for files and directories in Linux using the command line interface

On Linux, everything is a file

Identifying everything on Linux is a fairly correct file. A file is a collection of bytes. When read in a program or sent to the printer, they create a byte stream. And when written, they accept a byte stream.

Many other system components accept or create byte streams such as keyboards, printers, and communication processes. Because they both accept and create byte streams, these devices can be processed as if they were a very low file.

The concept simplifies the deployment of Linux operating systems. That means a processor of tools, APIs can be created to handle a variety of different resources.

Data and program files on the hard drive are old system files. You can use the **ls** command to list and find information about them.

So how do we find all other processes and devices that are considered files? Let the Isof command handle that. This command will list open files on the system and anything processed as a file.

Lsof command

We need to use the **sudo** command with the **lsof** command because many processes or devices belong to root or are started by root.

The Isof command list is very long, so you should use the **less** command to shorten it.

```
sudo lsof | less
```


Here are the full columns of lsof command. Open files may not be full of columns, some will be empty.

1. **Command** : The name of the command related to the file opening process.
2. **PID**: Process identification code of the file opening process.
3. **TID** : Task identification code (thread). If you see an empty column, it is not a task but a process.
4. **User** : ID or user name belongs to the process or user ID, login information of the owner of the directory in /proc which lsof found information about the process.
5. **FD** : Displays the file description.
6. **Type** : Type of button associated with the file.
7. **Device** : Contains the number of devices separated by commas for a special character, special file, regular file, directory or NFS file, the kernel reference address determines the file. In addition, it displays the base address or device name of the Linux device AX.25 socket.
8. **Size / Off** : Displays the file size or distance to the beginning of the file (file offset) in bytes.
9. **Node** : Displays the number of nodes of the local file or the inode number of the NFS file in the host or Internet protocol type. It can display STR for a thread or inode number, IRQ for Linux device AX.25 socket.
10. **Name** : Displays the name of the mount point and the file system with the files on it.

Column FD

Section column FD can be made up of three components: file descriptor, node character and lock character. Some common file descriptions are:

1. **cwd** : Current working directory.
2. **err** : FD information error (see column NAME).
3. **ltx** : **Shared** library text (code and data).
4. **m86** : DOS Merge mapping file.
5. **mem** : Memory mapping file.
6. **mmap** : Memory mapping device.
7. **pd** : Parent folder.
8. **rtd** : root directory.
9. **txt** : Program text (code and data).

Node character:

1. **r** : Read access.
2. **w** : Access recording.
3. **u** : Read and write access.
4. " : A space character, if no mode is specified, there is no key character.
5. - : Unknown mode and has a lock character.

Key characters:

1. **r** : Lock read on part of the file.
2. **R** : Reading lock on the whole file.
3. **w** : Lock written on part of the file.
4. **W** : Record lock on the entire file.
5. **u** : Read and write keys of any length.

6. **U** : Unknown key type.
7. **"** : A space character. No lock.

Column TYPE

More than 70 items may appear in the TYPE column. Some common items you will see are:

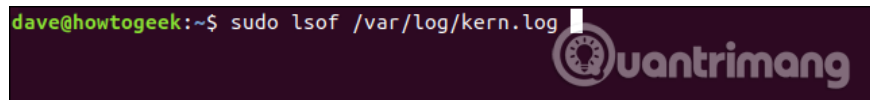
1. **REG** : Regular file system.
2. **DIR** : Folder.
3. **FIFO** : First In First Out.
4. **CHR** : Special character file.
5. **BLK** : File is specially blocked.
6. **INET** : Internet socket
7. **unix** : Socket UNIX domain name

View file opening processes

To see the process of opening a certain file, you need to provide the file name as a parameter for lsof. For example, to see the process of opening the kern.log file, use the following command:

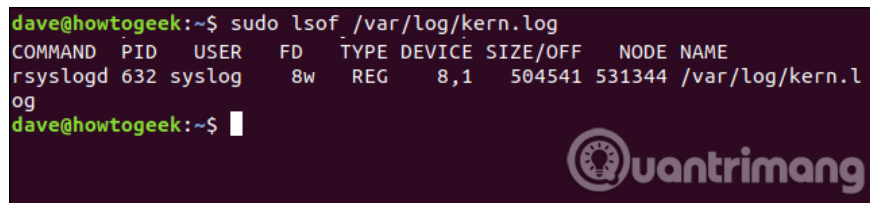
```
sudo lsof /var/log/kern.log
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof /var/log/kern.log
```



Lsof returns by displaying a single process, rsyslogd is started by the syslog user.

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof /var/log/kern.log
COMMAND PID  USER  FD  TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF  NODE NAME
rsyslogd 632 syslog 8w  REG   8,1  504541 531344 /var/log/kern.l
og
dave@howtogeek:~$
```

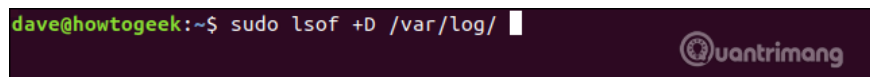


View all files opened from the library

To see files opened from a library and the process of opening them, provide the directory name for lsof as a parameter. You must use the +**D** option.

To view all open files in / var / log directory / use the following command:

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof +D /var/log/
```



Lsof returns a list of all open files in that directory.

```

COMMAND  PID  USER  FD  TYPE  DEVICE  SIZE/OFF  NODE  NAME
systemd-j 227  root  mem  REG   8,1    8388608  524650 /var/log/journal
systemd-j 227  root  mem  REG   8,1   16777216  524483 /var/log/journal
systemd-j 227  root  22u  REG   8,1   16777216  524483 /var/log/journal
systemd-j 227  root  89u  REG   8,1    8388608  524650 /var/log/journal
rsyslogd 632  syslog 7w   REG   8,1    650751  524646 /var/log/syslog
rsyslogd 632  syslog 8w   REG   8,1   504541  531344 /var/log/kern.log
rsyslogd 632  syslog 9w   REG   8,1    38303  531359 /var/log/auth.log
cupsd    640  root   14u  REG   8,1     866  524616 /var/log/cups/access_log
unattended 752  root   3w   REG   8,1    112  530322 /var/log/unattended
dave@howtogeek:~$

```

To view all files opened from the /home directory, use the following command:

```
sudo lsof +D /home
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof +D /home
```

You will see all the files opened in the /home directory. With short descriptions in some columns, the entire list will be narrowed.

```

COMMAND  PID  USER  FD  TYPE  DEVICE  SIZE/OFF  NODE  NAME
gdm-x-ses 2403 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
Xorg     2405 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
dbus-daem 2412 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
gnome-ses 2416 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
at-spi-bu 2556 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
dbus-daem 2561 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
at-spi2-r 2564 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
gnome-she 2582 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
gvfsd    2588 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
gvfsd-fus 2593 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
ibus-daem 2613 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
ibus-dcon 2617 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
ibus-x11  2619 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
ibus-port 2622 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
gnome-she 2682 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
evolution 2795 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
gvfs-udis 2796 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
gvfs-mtp  2803 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
gvfs-afc  2807 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave
goa-daemo 2811 dave  cwd  DIR    8,1      4096  426514 /home/dave

```

List files that are opened by a specific process

To view files opened by a specific process, use the -c option. Note, you can provide multiple search terms for lsof at the same time.

```
sudo lsof -c ssh -c init
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -c ssh -c init
```

Lsof provides a list of files opened by processes in the command line.

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -c ssh -c init
```

COMMAND	PID	USER	FD	TYPE	DEVICE	SIZE/OFF	NODE	NAME
ssh-agent	1345	dave	cwd	DIR	8,1	4096	2	/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	rtd	DIR	8,1	4096	2	/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	txt	REG	8,1	362640	10387	/usr/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	mem	REG	8,1	14560	531508	/lib/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	mem	REG	8,1	2030544	531485	/lib/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	mem	REG	8,1	2357760	143149	/usr/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	mem	REG	8,1	170960	531457	/lib/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	0u	CHR	1,3	0t0	6	/dev/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	1u	CHR	1,3	0t0	6	/dev/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	2u	CHR	1,3	0t0	6	/dev/
ssh-agent	1345	dave	3u	unix	0xfffff9155b72a9c00	0t0	24591	/tmp/

```
dave@howtogeek:~$
```

View open user files

To limit the display of files opened by specific users, you should use the **-u** option. In this example, we will find the files opened by the process of ownership or launch instead of Mary users.

```
sudo lsof -u mary
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -u mary
```

All files opened by Mary users will be listed. It includes files opened in the desktop environment or simply the result of Mary logging into the system.

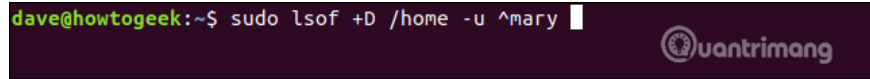
COMMAND	PID	USER	FD	TYPE	DEVICE	SIZE/OFF	NODE	NAME
systemd	4429	mary	cwd	DIR	8,1	4096	2	/
systemd	4429	mary	rtd	DIR	8,1	4096	2	/
systemd	4429	mary	txt	REG	8,1	1595792	567035	/usr/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	1700792	531548	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	121016	560046	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	84032	531526	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	43304	531537	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	34872	143155	/usr/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	432640	531507	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	18680	531473	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	18712	531488	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	27112	531653	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	14560	531508	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	464824	531607	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	144976	531618	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	112672	143797	/usr/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	153984	531545	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	206872	571034	/lib/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	27088	143723	/usr/
systemd	4429	mary	mem	REG	8,1	1155768	531524	/lib/

Exclude files opened by users

To exclude files opened by users, use the **^** operator to exclude users from the list. This will help you find information more easily. You must use the **-u** option and add the **^** character to the username.

```
sudo lsof +D /home -u ^mary
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof +D /home -u ^mary
```



You will see a list of /home directories without any files opened by Mary users.

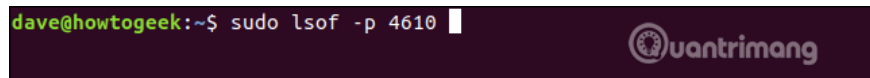
```
nautilus 4555 dave 18rr REG 8,1 204800 433862 /home/dave/.lo
nautilus 4555 dave 19u REG 8,1 4128272 394573 /home/dave/.lo
nautilus 4555 dave 20ur REG 8,1 32768 399696 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4603 dave cwd DIR 8,1 4096 426514 /home/dave
zeitgeist 4603 dave mem-r REG 8,1 32768 399696 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4603 dave 7ur REG 8,1 204800 433862 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4603 dave 8u REG 8,1 4128272 394573 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4603 dave 9ur REG 8,1 32768 399696 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4610 dave cwd DIR 8,1 4096 426514 /home/dave
zeitgeist 4610 dave mem-r REG 8,1 32768 399696 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4610 dave 7rr REG 8,1 204800 433862 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4610 dave 8w REG 8,1 0 433870 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4610 dave 9u REG 8,1 4128272 394573 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4610 dave 10ur REG 8,1 32768 399696 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4610 dave 11u REG 8,1 106496 433874 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4610 dave 12u REG 8,1 90112 433872 /home/dave/.lo
zeitgeist 4610 dave 13u REG 8,1 90112 433876 /home/dave/.lo
sudo 4659 root cwd DIR 8,1 4096 426514 /home/dave
lsof 4660 root cwd DIR 8,1 4096 426514 /home/dave
lsof 4661 root cwd DIR 8,1 4096 426514 /home/dave
dave@howtogeek:~$
```

List the file due to the open process according to the process ID

To list the file due to the open process, use the **-p** option and provide the process ID as the parameter.

```
sudo lsof -p 4610
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -p 4610
```



All files opened by the process ID you provide are listed in the image below.

COMMAND	PID	USER	FD	TYPE	DEVICE	SIZE/OFF	NODE
zeitgeist	4610	dave	cwd	DIR	8,1	4096	426514
zeitgeist	4610	dave	rtd	DIR	8,1	4096	2
zeitgeist	4610	dave	txt	REG	8,1	137400	144783
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	247720	265892
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	211144	265893
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	311720	531477
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	26904264	143695
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	14560	531508
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	464824	531607
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	31032	143431
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	340232	531554
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	101168	531624
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	154832	531630
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	14232	143366
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	1792008	143705
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	2754872	143697
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	1700792	531548
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	27112	531653
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	116960	531657
zeitgeist	4610	dave	mem	REG	8,1	31680	531626

List file open process ID

To view the process ID for a specific file, use the **-t** option and provide the file name for the command line.

```
sudo lsof -t /usr/share/mime/mime.cache
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -t /usr/share/mime/mime.cache
```

The process ID is displayed in a simple list.

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -t /usr/share/mime/mime.cache
1365
2109
2183
2582
2891
2956
3176
3178
3198
3245
3264
4555
4610
dave@howtogeek:~$
```

Use AND and OR search

As mentioned above, you can use multiple search terms in the command line. For example, to find files opened by Mary users and related to the SSH process use the following command:

```
sudo lsof -u mary -c ssh
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -u mary -c ssh
```

Below is the output of the above command, something is not right here because there are output items that start with root.

```
sshd      4427 root mem      REG      8,1    39784    53164
sshd      4427 root mem      REG      8,1   170960    53144
sshd      4427 root 0r       CHR      1,3     0t0
sshd      4427 root 1u       CHR      1,3     0t0
sshd      4427 root 2u       CHR      1,3     0t0
sshd      4427 root 3u      IPv4     45604    0t0      TC
sshd      4427 root 4u      unix 0xffff9ed8bfd28400 0t0      45604
sshd      4427 root 5u       CHR      5,2     0t0      8
sshd      4427 root 6u      unix 0xffff9ed8f79f2c00 0t0      4617
sshd      4427 root 7w      FIFO     0,22    0t0      8
systemd   4429 mary cwd      DIR      8,1     4096
systemd   4429 mary rtd      DIR      8,1     4096
systemd   4429 mary txt      REG      8,1   1595792    56703
systemd   4429 mary mem      REG      8,1   1700792    53154
systemd   4429 mary mem      REG      8,1   121016    56004
systemd   4429 mary mem      REG      8,1    84032    53152
systemd   4429 mary mem      REG      8,1    43304    53153
systemd   4429 mary mem      REG      8,1    34872    14315
systemd   4429 mary mem      REG      8,1    432040    53150
systemd   4429 mary mem      REG      8,1    18680    53147
systemd   4429 mary mem      REG      8,1    18712    53148
```

When providing multiple lsof search terms, it will return any file that matches the first, second, third search term, etc. In other words, it does an OR search.

To make lsof perform an AND search, use the **-a** option. That means only files matching the first and second conditions are listed.

```
sudo lsof -u mary -c ssh -a
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -u mary -c ssh -a
```

Now, all files in the list are opened by or on behalf of Mary and are related to the SSH command.

COMMAND	PID	USER	FD	TYPE	DEVICE	SIZE/OFF	NODE	NAME
sshd	4529	mary	cwd	DIR	8,1	4096	2	/
sshd	4529	mary	rtd	DIR	8,1	4096	2	/
sshd	4529	mary	txt	REG	8,1	786856	27	/usr/st
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	258040	564838	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	42920	531675	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	14464	530962	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	22872	530982	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	10312	530990	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	10336	530994	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	14576	530900	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	258040	565613	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	10376	531026	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	10280	530980	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	10336	530989	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	18736	531009	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	10264	530996	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	22768	531490	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	10080	531663	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	6104	530997	/lib/x8
sshd	4529	mary	mem	REG	8,1	5776	530956	/lib/x8

Automatically refresh results

We can use the `+ | -r option` to put `lsdf` into repeat mode. You can use the repeat option in two ways `+ r` or `-r`. You need to add the number of seconds you want `lsdf` to wait before refreshing the result.

Use the repeat option with one of the two formats that `lsdf` displays as normal, but it adds a broken line to the bottom of the screen. It will wait for the number of seconds you provided in the command line and then refresh the screen with a new set of results.

With the `-r` option it will continue to repeat the process, want to stop, press `Ctrl + C` With the `+ r` format, it will continue until no results are displayed or press `Ctrl + C`

```
sudo lsdf -u mary -c ssh -a -r5
```

Note, the dashed line at the end of the data split list is displayed when the output is refreshed.

```

sshd 4529 mary mem REG 8,1 2357760 143149 /usr/li
sshd 4529 mary mem REG 8,1 536648 565627 /lib/x8
sshd 4529 mary mem REG 8,1 154832 531630 /lib/x8
sshd 4529 mary mem REG 8,1 55848 530899 /lib/x8
sshd 4529 mary mem REG 8,1 124848 531475 /lib/x8
sshd 4529 mary mem REG 8,1 39784 531655 /lib/x8
sshd 4529 mary mem REG 8,1 170960 531457 /lib/x8
sshd 4529 mary 0u CHR 1,3 0t0 6 /dev/nu
sshd 4529 mary 1u CHR 1,3 0t0 6 /dev/nu
sshd 4529 mary 2u CHR 1,3 0t0 6 /dev/nu
sshd 4529 mary 3u IPv4 45604 0t0 TCP howtoge
sshd 4529 mary 4u unix 0xffff9ed8bfd28400 0t0 45645 type=DO
sshd 4529 mary 5u unix 0xffff9ed8f79f3000 0t0 46177 type=ST
sshd 4529 mary 6r FIFO 0,12 0t0 46181 pipe
sshd 4529 mary 7w FIFO 0,22 0t0 812 /run/sy
sshd 4529 mary 8w FIFO 0,12 0t0 46181 pipe
sshd 4529 mary 9u CHR 5,2 0t0 86 /dev/pt
sshd 4529 mary 11u CHR 5,2 0t0 86 /dev/pt
sshd 4529 mary 12u CHR 5,2 0t0 86 /dev/pt
=====

```

Display files related to Internet connection.

The **-i** option allows you to view files opened by network related processes and the Internet.

```
lsof -i
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i
```

All files are opened due to internet connection and the network is displayed.

```

dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i
COMMAND  PID  USER      FD  TYPE  DEVICE  SIZE/OFF  NODE  NAME
systemd-r 320  systemd-resolve 12u IPv4  15085    0t0    UDP  localhos
systemd-r 320  systemd-resolve 13u IPv4  15086    0t0    TCP  localhos
avahi-dae 606  avahi     12u IPv4  17545    0t0    UDP  *:mdns
avahi-dae 606  avahi     13u IPv6  17546    0t0    UDP  *:mdns
avahi-dae 606  avahi     14u IPv4  17547    0t0    UDP  *:42613
avahi-dae 606  avahi     15u IPv6  17548    0t0    UDP  *:34120
cupsd    2320  root      6u  IPv6  27085    0t0    TCP  ip6-loc
cupsd    2320  root      7u  IPv4  27086    0t0    TCP  localhos
cups-brow 2322  root      7u  IPv4  27094    0t0    UDP  *:ipp
sshd     4158  root      3u  IPv4  39573    0t0    TCP  *:ssh (l
sshd     4158  root      4u  IPv6  39584    0t0    TCP  *:ssh (l
dhclient 4274  root      6u  IPv4  44230    0t0    UDP  *:bootpe
sshd     4427  root      3u  IPv4  45604    0t0    TCP  howtoge
sshd     4529  mary      3u  IPv4  45604    0t0    TCP  howtoge

```

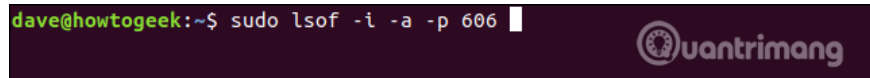
Displays the file associated with the Internet connection by the process ID

To view files opened by a process related to an Internet connection using a specific process ID, add the **-p** option and **-a** option.

We will find the files related to the Internet connection or the network opened by the 606 process ID.

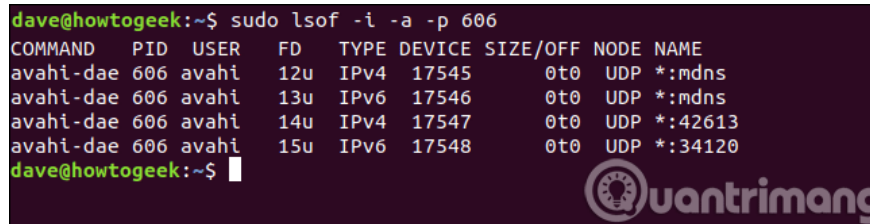
```
sudo lsof -i -a -p 606
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i -a -p 606
```



All files opened by the ID 606 process associated with the Internet and the network are displayed.

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i -a -p 606
COMMAND PID USER  FD  TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME
avahi-dae 606 avahi 12u IPv4 17545      0t0  UDP *:mdns
avahi-dae 606 avahi 13u IPv6 17546      0t0  UDP *:mdns
avahi-dae 606 avahi 14u IPv4 17547      0t0  UDP *:42613
avahi-dae 606 avahi 15u IPv6 17548      0t0  UDP *:34120
dave@howtogeek:~$
```

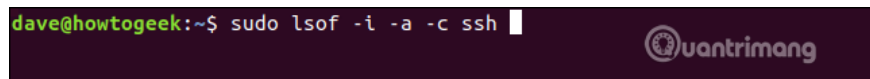


Display files associated with commands and Internet connection

We can use the **-c** (command) option to search for files opened by specific processes. To find files opened with processes related to Internet connection or networks associated with the ssh process, use the following command:

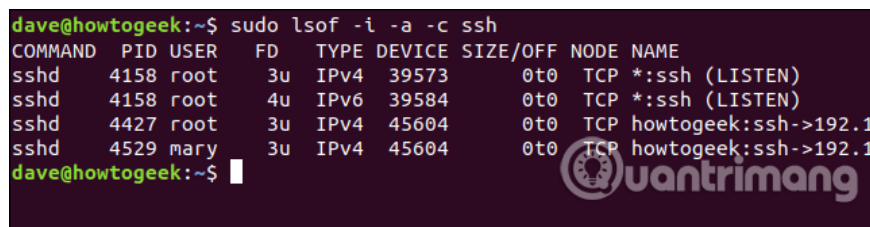
```
lsof -i -a -c ssh
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i -a -c ssh
```



All files are opened because the ssh process is listed.

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i -a -c ssh
COMMAND PID USER  FD  TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME
sshd    4158 root   3u  IPv4 39573      0t0  TCP *:ssh (LISTEN)
sshd    4158 root   4u  IPv6 39584      0t0  TCP *:ssh (LISTEN)
sshd    4427 root   3u  IPv4 45604      0t0  TCP howtogeek:ssh->192.168.1.100
sshd    4529 mary   3u  IPv4 45604      0t0  TCP howtogeek:ssh->192.168.1.100
dave@howtogeek:~$
```



Display files related to Internet connection and ports

Lsof can report files opened by Internet connection and network on specific port. To do that, use the character **:** following the port number.

Below lsof lists the files opened by network connection or Internet using port 22.

```
lsof -i: 22
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i :22
```

All files are opened by the process related to port 22 (this is the default port for SSH connection).

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i :22
COMMAND  PID USER  FD  TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME
sshd     4158 root   3u  IPv4  39573      0t0  TCP *:ssh (LISTEN)
sshd     4158 root   4u  IPv6  39584      0t0  TCP *:ssh (LISTEN)
sshd     4427 root   3u  IPv4  45604      0t0  TCP howtogeek:ssh->192.168.1.100:22 (ESTABLISHED)
sshd     4529 mary   3u  IPv4  45604      0t0  TCP howtogeek:ssh->192.168.1.100:22 (ESTABLISHED)
```

Display files related to Internet connection and protocol

You can request lsof to display the file opened by the process related to network and Internet connection, using specific protocol. You can choose from TCP, UDP and SMTP. Here we find the file using TCP protocol.

1. The difference between TCP and UDP protocols

```
sudo lsof -i tcp
```

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i tcp
```

This is the output that is opened by processes using TCP protocol.

```
dave@howtogeek:~$ sudo lsof -i tcp
COMMAND  PID USER  FD  TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME
systemd-r 320 systemd-resolve 13u IPv4 15086      0t0  TCP localhos
cupsd     2320 root   6u  IPv6  27085      0t0  TCP ip6-loc
cupsd     2320 root   7u  IPv4  27086      0t0  TCP localhos
sshd     4158 root   3u  IPv4  39573      0t0  TCP *:ssh (L
sshd     4158 root   4u  IPv6  39584      0t0  TCP *:ssh (L
sshd     4427 root   3u  IPv4  45604      0t0  TCP howtoge
sshd     4529 mary   3u  IPv4  45604      0t0  TCP howtoge
firefox  5175 dave  108u IPv4  56800      0t0  TCP howtoge
firefox  5175 dave  121u IPv4  56926      0t0  TCP howtoge
BLISHED)
firefox  5175 dave  122u IPv4  56813      0t0  TCP howtoge
firefox  5175 dave  127u IPv4  56353      0t0  TCP howtoge
s (ESTABLISHED)
firefox  5175 dave  137u IPv4  56932      0t0  TCP howtoge
HED)
firefox  5175 dave  150u IPv4  56910      0t0  TCP howtoge
(ESTABLISHED)
firefox  5175 dave  153u IPv4  56913      0t0  TCP howtoge
```

Here are some ways to use lsof command you can use to search files on Linux.

I wish you all success!

You finished reading the article "**How to use lsof command on Linux**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.

