

The KFind Handbook

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Abstract

KFind is KDE's file find utility.

Chapter 1

Introduction

KFind is the KDE file find utility.

1.1 Launching KFind

The Find Files tool is a useful method of searching for specific files on your computer, or for searching for files that match a pattern. An example of this could include searching for files of a particular type or with certain letters in the filename. You can load this utility by clicking on Find Files. This will launch KFind.

Chapter 2

Finding Files

2.1 The Name/Location Tab

When starting KFind, you will see a quite simple window. Type in the name of the file you are searching in the text box labeled Named:. Choose a folder where you want to search by typing it in the field Look in: or by clicking Browse... and press **Enter** or click Find. If Include subfolders is checked all subfolders starting from your chosen folder will be searched too. The results will be displayed in the box below.

You can use the following wildcards:

The Asterisk ‘*’ The asterisk stands for any number of missing characters (even zero), that means e.g. searching for `marc*` may find the files `marc`, `marc.png` and `marc_must_not_read_this.kwd`. `mar*.kwd` may find `marketplace.kwd` and `marc_must_not_read_this.kwd`.

The Question Mark ‘?’ In contrast to the asterisk, the question mark stands for exactly one character, so `mar?` will find `marc`, but `marc?` will not find anything, as our files are called `marc` and `marc.png`. You can put as many question marks in the term as you want, it will find exactly that number of characters.

Of course you can combine those two wildcard symbols in a search term.

2.2 The Contents Tab

File type Here you can specify the type of file you are searching for.

Containing text Type in the word or phrase the files you are searching for must contain. Note: If you do this in a large folder or checked Include subfolders in the Name/Location tab, this may take a long time.

NOTE

This option will *not* work for all files listed under File type. Only the following file types are supported:

- Text files, e.g. source code and README files
- KWord >= 1.2
- KPresenter >= 1.2
- KSpread >= 1.2
- OpenOffice.org Writer
- OpenOffice.org Impress
- OpenOffice.org Calc

Case sensitive If you enable this option, KFind will only find files with the exact case matching, e.g. MARC will only match 'MARC', not 'Marc'.

Regular expression If you have installed the KRegExpEditor tool from the kdeutils package, you will have this additional option. Enabling it will allow you to search for a *regex* or regular expression. A regex is a way to specify conditions for your search, and they can be very complex, and equally they can be very powerful. If you are unfamiliar with regular expressions, you can choose Edit Regular Expression to open KRegExpEditor. This tool allows you to construct your set of conditions graphically, and then generates the expression for you.

KRegExpEditor is a very useful tool, and can be used from within many KDE applications other than KFind. You can find more information from within its own help file.

2.3 The Properties Tab

Here you can refine your search. These are the special refinements you can choose:

Find all files created or modified Here you can either enter two dates, between which the files were created or modified, or specify a time period.

File size is Here you can specify if the file has to be at least or as most as big as the size you entered in the following box.

Files owned by user, Files owned by group Here you can specify user and group names.

Chapter 3

Credits and License

KFind

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Appendix A

Installation

A.1 How to obtain KFind

KFind is part of the KDE project <http://www.kde.org/> .

KFind can be found in the kbase package on <ftp://ftp.kde.org/pub/kde/> , the main FTP site of the KDE project.

A.2 Requirements

In order to successfully use KFind, you need KDE 4.x.

A.3 Compilation and Installation

For detailed information on how to compile and install KDE applications see [Building KDE4 From Source](#)

Since KDE uses **cmake** you should have no trouble compiling it. Should you run into problems please report them to the KDE mailing lists.