df and du Disk space usage

START HERE

`df -h`
Free space per filesystem

`df -i`
Inode usage

`df -h <path>`
Which disk holds this path?

`du -xh -d 1 /`
Stay on the root filesystem

`du -sh <dir>`
Total size of a directory

`df -hT`
Add filesystem type

`du -h -d 1 <dir> | sort -h`
Biggest subdirectories last

`du -ah <dir> | sort -rh | head`
Largest files and dirs

df disk is full? → `which mount` → **du -x** which directory? → `drill down` → **du -d 1** which subdir / file?

CONCEPTS

df asks the filesystem how full it is; du walks the tree and adds up files. Their numbers can differ.

These are GNU flags. BSD/macOS df and du differ: no --inodes, --apparent-size or --output.

Full disk but df -i shows 100% IUse? You ran out of inodes (many tiny files), not bytes.

df and du disagree when a deleted file is still held open by a process; close or restart it to free the space (find it: lsof +L1).

DF: FREE SPACE

`df -h`
Human-readable sizes (powers of 1024)

`df -h <path>`
Only the filesystem containing <path>

`df -hT`
Show filesystem type column

`df -i`
Inodes instead of blocks

`df -H`
Sizes in powers of 1000 (like disk vendors)

`df -t <type>`
Only filesystems of this type

`df -x tmpfs -x devtmpfs`
Hide filesystem types

DF: FREE SPACE (cont.)

`df -l`
Local filesystems only (skip NFS)

`df --total`
Add a grand total row

`df --output=source,avail,target`
Pick the columns (see detail for fields)

Valid fields: source fstype itotal iused iavail ipcent size used avail pcent file target.

`df -a`
Include pseudo and inaccessible filesystems

`df -BG`
Fixed unit, here gigabytes (1024^3)

`df -P`
POSIX format, one line per filesystem

Stops long device names from wrapping; also fixes columns and 1K units. Use it in scripts.

`df --sync`
Sync before reading usage

`df -k`
1K blocks

DU: DIRECTORY SIZE

`du -sh <dir>`
Total for one directory

`du -h -d 1 <dir>`
Size of each direct subdirectory

`du -sh *`
Size of each item in the cwd

Misses dotfiles; add .[!.] to include them.*

DU: DIRECTORY SIZE (cont.)

`du -ah <dir>`
Every file, not just directories

`du -h -d 1 <dir> | sort -h`
Sort smallest to biggest

`du -ah <dir> | sort -rh | head`
Top 10 space users

`du -xh -d 1 <dir>`
Don't cross filesystem boundaries

`du -ch <file>...`
Per item plus grand total

`du -t <size> -ah <dir>`
Skip entries under <size> (negative: over)

Example: -t 100M lists only entries of 100 MiB or more.

`du --exclude='<pattern>' <dir>`
Skip matching names

`du --apparent-size -sh <dir>`
Content size, not disk blocks

Sparse files use less disk than this; small files use more (block rounding).

`du -S <dir>`
Exclude subdirectories from each dir's size

`du --time -h -d 1 <dir>`
Add newest modification time

`du --inodes -d 1 <dir> | sort -n`
File count per directory

Needs coreutils 8.22 or newer.

`du -L <dir>`
Follow all symlinks

`du -l <dir>`
Count hard-linked files each time

DU: DIRECTORY SIZE (cont.)

`du -b <file>`
Exact bytes (apparent size)

`du -m <dir>`
Sizes in MiB (1024^2)

`du --si -s <dir>`
Powers of 1000

`du -X <file>`
Read exclude patterns from a file

`du -0 <dir> | sort -z`
NUL-terminated lines for odd filenames

`du --files0-from=<file>`
Read NUL-separated names from a file or -

`du --time=ctime --time-style=long-iso`
Choose the time kind and format

RECIPES

Find what fills the disk

```
df -h
# pick the full mount, then descend
du -xh -d 1 / | sort -h | tail
du -xh -d 1 /var | sort -h | tail
```

Biggest files under a tree

```
du -ah /var 2>/dev/null | sort -rh | head -n 20
```

Size of files chosen by find

```
find . -name '*.log' -print0 | du --files0-from=- -ch | tail -n 1
```

Alert when a disk is nearly full

```
df --output=pcent,target | tail -n +2 | awk '$1+0 > 90 {print "low space:", $2}'
```