

Re: how to select files not in a list

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From: -linux_lad (john_at_linuxlad.org)

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Carli Fuchs wrote:

> *I have two lists, one list holds actual users, another holds a listing of*
> *home directories. I want to remove the directories that are not in the*
> *actual users list. I have tried diff, comm, and uniq, but I cannot get just*
> *a list of directories of people who are not on the actual users list. Am I*
> *approaching this task wrong? My approach is to list all folders (they are*
> *named the same as the account holder), and compare the folder names to the*
> *list of people who are current account holders. I was thinking that would*
> *give me a list of people who had folders but did not have accounts, and then*
> *I can delete those folders. Is there another way to do this?*
>
> *tia*
> *c.f.*
>
>

If I read and understood this correctly, you want to compare two files and perform some kind of action (like `rm -rf`) on the lines that are in one list but not the other? If so, try this:

file1 = your listing of valid users
file2 = your listing of home directories

```
comm -3 file1 file2
```

This will spit out folder names that are NOT in file1, which should be the stuff you want to remove...assuming that all valid users have a home dir on list2. Pipe them to a file, then loop through that file. I'm going off the top of my head, so test this first.

--

-linux_lad

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