

## locate (find files by name)

Let's say you're looking for a file called `resolv.conf` and you have no idea where it might be on your system. You could try a search using `→find / -iname resolv.conf`, but searching your whole file system starting from `/` is likely to take a long time. *locate* to the rescue! This command searches an index or database of all the files present on your system, which is much faster than crawling the file system itself using *find*. Call *locate* like this:

```
locate resolv.conf
```

The search should quickly turn up the desired file, `/etc/resolv.conf`. If not, *locate*'s file index might be out of date. For *locate* to work properly the index needs to be updated regularly, otherwise new files added to the system will not be found. You can update *locate*'s index by typing:

```
sudo updatedb
```

However, this should only be necessary if you added a lot of files to your system in the last couple of hours, because most Linux distributions run *updatedb* automatically once a day (without the user even noticing it). If you want to know when *locate*'s index was last updated, have a look at the database file `mlocate.db` using `→ls -l`:

```
... May 24 19:40 /var/lib/mlocate/mlocate.db
```

The exact location of `mlocate.db` may differ on your system. The file is likely to be somewhere under `/var/lib/`.