



Working with the Flash File System

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Information About the Flash File System

The flash file system is a single flash device on which you can store files. It also provides several commands to help you manage software bundles and configuration files. The default flash file system on the device is named flash:

As viewed from the active device, flash: refers to the local flash device, which is the device attached to the same device on which the file system is being viewed.

Only one user at a time can manage the software bundles and configuration files .

Displaying Available File Systems

To display the available file systems on your device, use the **show file systems** privileged EXEC command as shown in this example for a standalone device:

```
Device# show file systems
Size(b) Free(b) Type Flags Prefixes
- - opaque rw system:
- - opaque rw tmpsys:
1651314688 1559785472 disk rw crashinfo:
* 11353194496 9693396992 disk rw flash:
8049967104 7959392256 disk ro webui:
- - opaque rw null:
- - opaque ro tar:
- - network rw tftp:
2097152 2080848 nvram rw nvram:
- - opaque wo syslog:
```

```

- - network rw rcp:
- - network rw http:
- - network rw ftp:
- - network rw scp:
- - network rw https:
- - opaque ro cns:

```

Setting the Default File System

You can specify the file system or directory that the system uses as the default file system by using the **cd** *filesystem:* privileged EXEC command. You can set the default file system to omit the *filesystem:* argument from related commands. For example, for all privileged EXEC commands that have the optional *filesystem:* argument, the system uses the file system specified by the **cd** command.

By default, the default file system is *flash:*.

You can display the current default file system as specified by the **cd** command by using the **pwd** privileged EXEC command.

Displaying Information About Files on a File System

You can view a list of the contents of a file system before manipulating its contents. For example, before copying a new configuration file to flash memory, you might want to verify that the file system does not already contain a configuration file with the same name. Similarly, before copying a flash configuration file to another location, you might want to verify its filename for use in another command. To display information about files on a file system, use one of the privileged EXEC commands listed in the following table.

Table 1: Commands for Displaying Information About Files

Command	Description
dir [/all] [<i>filesystem:filename</i>]	Displays a list of files on a file system.
show file systems	Displays more information about each of the files on a file system.
show file information <i>file-url</i>	Displays information about a specific file.
show file descriptors	Displays a list of open file descriptors. File descriptors are the internal representations of open files. You can use this command to see if another user has a file open.

Changing Directories and Displaying the Working Directory (CLI)

Follow these steps to change directories and to display the working directory:

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	dir filesystem: Example: Device# dir flash:	Displays the directories on the specified file system. For <i>filesystem:</i> , use flash: for the system board flash device.
Step 3	cd directory_name Example: Device# cd new_configs	Navigates to the specified directory. The command example shows how to navigate to the directory named <i>new_configs</i> .
Step 4	pwd Example: Device# pwd	Displays the working directory.
Step 5	cd Example: Device# cd	Navigates to the default directory.

Creating Directories (CLI)

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to create a directory:

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	dir filesystem: Example: Device# dir flash:	Displays the directories on the specified file system. For <i>filesystem:</i> , use flash: for the system board flash device.
Step 2	mkdir directory_name Example: Device# mkdir new_configs	Creates a new directory. Directory names are case sensitive and are limited to 45 characters between the slashes (/); the name cannot contain control characters, spaces, slashes, quotes, semicolons, or colons.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 3	dir <i>filesystem</i> : Example: Device# dir flash:	Verifies your entry.

Removing Directories

To remove a directory with all its files and subdirectories, use the **delete /force /recursive** *filesystem:/file-url* privileged EXEC command.

Use the **/recursive** keyword to delete the named directory and all subdirectories and the files contained in it. Use the **/force** keyword to suppress the prompting that confirms a deletion of each file in the directory. You are prompted only once at the beginning of this deletion process.

For *filesystem*, use **flash:** for the system board flash device. For *file-url*, enter the name of the directory to be deleted. All of the files in the directory and the directory are removed.



Caution When directories are deleted, their contents cannot be recovered.

Copying Files

To copy a file from a source to a destination, use the **copy** *source-url destination-url* privileged EXEC command. For the source and destination URLs, you can use **running-config** and **startup-config** keyword shortcuts. For example, the **copy running-config startup-config** command saves the currently running configuration file to the NVRAM section of flash memory to be used as the configuration during system initialization.

You can also copy from special file systems (**xmodem:**, **ymodem:**) as the source for the file from a network machine that uses the Xmodem or Ymodem protocol.

Network file system URLs include ftp:, rep:, tftp:, scp:, http:, and https: and have these syntaxes:

- FTP—ftp:[[/username [:password]@location]/directory]/filename
- RCP—rcp:[[/username@location]/directory]/filename
- TFTP—tftp:[[/location]/directory]/filename
- SCP—scp:[[/username [:password]@location]/directory]/filename
- HTTP—http:[[/username [:password]@location]/directory]/filename
- HTTPS—https:[[/username [:password]@location]/directory]/filename



Note The password must not contain the special character '@'. If the character '@' is used, the copy fails to parse the IP address of the server.

Local writable file systems include flash:

Some invalid combinations of source and destination exist. Specifically, you cannot copy these combinations:

- From a running configuration to a running configuration
- From a startup configuration to a startup configuration
- From a device to the same device (for example, the **copy flash: flash:** command is invalid)

Deleting Files

When you no longer need a file on a flash memory device, you can permanently delete it. To delete a file or directory from a specified flash device, use the **delete** [**/force**] [**/recursive**] [*filesystem:*]*/file-url* privileged EXEC command.

Use the **/recursive** keyword for deleting a directory and all subdirectories and the files contained in it. Use the **/force** keyword to suppress the prompting that confirms a deletion of each file in the directory. You are prompted only once at the beginning of this deletion process. Use the **/force** and **/recursive** keywords for deleting old software images that were installed by using the **archive download-sw** command but are no longer needed.

If you omit the *filesystem:* option, the device uses the default device specified by the **cd** command. For *file-url*, you specify the path (directory) and the name of the file to be deleted.

When you attempt to delete any files, the system prompts you to confirm the deletion.



Caution When files are deleted, their contents cannot be recovered.

This example shows how to delete the file *myconfig* from the default flash memory device:

```
Device# delete myconfig
```

Creating, Displaying and Extracting Files (CLI)

You can create a file and write files into it, list the files in a file, and extract the files from a file as described in the next sections.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to create a file, display the contents, and extract it:

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	archive tar /create destination-url flash: <i>/file-url</i> Example: <pre>device# archive tar /create tftp:172.20.10.30/saved. flash:/new-configs</pre>	Creates a file and adds files to it. For <i>destination-url</i> , specify the destination URL alias for the local or network file system and the name of the file to create: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local flash file system syntax: flash:

	Command or Action	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FTP syntax: ftp://<i>username</i>[<i>password</i>]@<i>location</i>/<i>directory</i>/<i>-filename</i>. • RCP syntax: rftp://<i>username</i>@<i>location</i>/<i>directory</i>/<i>-filename</i>. • TFTP syntax: tftp://<i>location</i>/<i>directory</i>/<i>-filename</i>. <p>For flash:<i>file-url</i>, specify the location on the local flash file system in which the new file is created. You can also specify an optional list of files or directories within the source directory to add to the new file. If none are specified, all files and directories at this level are written to the newly created file.</p>
Step 2	archive tar /table <i>source-url</i> Example: <pre>device# archive tar /table flash: /new_configs</pre>	<p>Displays the contents of a file.</p> <p>For <i>source-url</i>, specify the source URL alias for the local or network file system. The <i>-filename</i>. is the file to display. These options are supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local flash file system syntax: flash: • FTP syntax: ftp://<i>username</i>[<i>password</i>]@<i>location</i>/<i>directory</i>/<i>-filename</i>. • RCP syntax: rftp://<i>username</i>@<i>location</i>/<i>directory</i>/<i>-filename</i>. • TFTP syntax: tftp://<i>location</i>/<i>directory</i>/<i>-filename</i>. <p>You can also limit the file displays by specifying a list of files or directories after the file. Only those files appear. If none are specified, all files and directories appear.</p>
Step 3	archive tar /xtract <i>source-url</i> flash:/<i>file-url</i> [<i>dir/file...</i>] Example: <pre>device# archive tar /xtract tftp://172.20.10.30/saved. flash:/new-configs</pre>	<p>Extracts a file into a directory on the flash file system.</p> <p>For <i>source-url</i>, specify the source URL alias for the local file system. The <i>-filename</i>. is the file from which to extract files. These options are supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local flash file system syntax: flash: • FTP syntax: ftp://<i>username</i>[<i>password</i>]@<i>location</i>/<i>directory</i>/<i>-filename</i>.

	Command or Action	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCP syntax: rcp:<code>[[//username@location]/directory]/-filename.</code> TFTP syntax: tftp:<code>[[//location]/directory]/-filename.</code> <p>For flash:/file-url [<i>dir/file...</i>], specify the location on the local flash file system from which the file is extracted. Use the <i>dir/file...</i> option to specify a list of files or directories within the file to be extracted. If none are specified, all files and directories are extracted.</p>
Step 4	more [/ascii /binary /ebcdic] /file-url Example: <pre>device# more flash:/new-configs</pre>	Displays the contents of any readable file, including a file on a remote file system.

Additional References

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Commands for managing flash: file systems	<i>Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Command Reference</i>

Error Message Decoder

Description	Link
To help you research and resolve system error messages in this release, use the Error Message Decoder tool.	https://www.cisco.com/cgi-bin/Support/Errordecoder/index.cgi

Standards

Standards	Title
No new or modified standards are supported by this feature, and support for existing standards has not been modified by this feature.	--

MIBs

MIBs	MIBs Link
No new or modified MIBs are supported by this feature, and support for existing MIBs has not been modified by this feature.	To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco IOS releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL: http://www.cisco.com/go/mibs

RFCs

RFCs	Title
No new or modified RFCs are supported by this feature, and support for existing RFCs has not been modified by this feature.	--

Technical Assistance

Description	Link
<p>The Cisco Support website provides extensive online resources, including documentation and tools for troubleshooting and resolving technical issues with Cisco products and technologies.</p> <p>To receive security and technical information about your products, you can subscribe to various services, such as the Product Alert Tool (accessed from Field Notices), the Cisco Technical Services Newsletter, and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) Feeds.</p> <p>Access to most tools on the Cisco Support website requires a Cisco.com user ID and password.</p>	http://www.cisco.com/cisco/web/support/index.html