

NAME

File::Glob - Perl extension for BSD glob routine

SYNOPSIS

```
use File::Glob ':glob';

@list = bsd_glob('*.[ch]');
$homedir = bsd_glob('~gnat', GLOB_TILDE | GLOB_ERR);

if (GLOB_ERROR) {
    # an error occurred reading $homedir
}

## override the core glob (CORE::glob() does this automatically
## by default anyway, since v5.6.0)
use File::Glob ':globally';
my @sources = <*. {c,h,y}>;

## override the core glob, forcing case sensitivity
use File::Glob qw(:globally :case);
my @sources = <*. {c,h,y}>;

## override the core glob forcing case insensitivity
use File::Glob qw(:globally :nocase);
my @sources = <*. {c,h,y}>;

## glob on all files in home directory
use File::Glob ':globally';
my @sources = <~gnat/*>;
```

DESCRIPTION

The glob angle-bracket operator <> is a pathname generator that implements the rules for file name pattern matching used by Unix-like shells such as the Bourne shell or C shell.

File::Glob::bsd_glob() implements the FreeBSD glob(3) routine, which is a superset of the POSIX glob() (described in IEEE Std 1003.2 "POSIX.2"). bsd_glob() takes a mandatory `pattern` argument, and an optional `flags` argument, and returns a list of filenames matching the pattern, with interpretation of the pattern modified by the `flags` variable.

Since v5.6.0, Perl's CORE::glob() is implemented in terms of bsd_glob(). Note that they don't share the same prototype--CORE::glob() only accepts a single argument. Due to historical reasons, CORE::glob() will also split its argument on whitespace, treating it as multiple patterns, whereas bsd_glob() considers them as one pattern.

META CHARACTERS

\	Quote the next metacharacter
[]	Character class
{}	Multiple pattern
*	Match any string of characters
?	Match any single character
~	User name home directory

The metanotation `a{b,c,d}e` is a shorthand for `abe ace ade`. Left to right order is preserved, with

results of matches being sorted separately at a low level to preserve this order. As a special case `{, }`, and `{ }` are passed undisturbed.

POSIX FLAGS

The POSIX defined flags for `bsd_glob()` are:

GLOB_ERR

Force `bsd_glob()` to return an error when it encounters a directory it cannot open or read. Ordinarily `bsd_glob()` continues to find matches.

GLOB_LIMIT

Make `bsd_glob()` return an error (`GLOB_NOSPACE`) when the pattern expands to a size bigger than the system constant `ARG_MAX` (usually found in `limits.h`). If your system does not define this constant, `bsd_glob()` uses `sysconf(_SC_ARG_MAX)` or `_POSIX_ARG_MAX` where available (in that order). You can inspect these values using the standard POSIX extension.

GLOB_MARK

Each pathname that is a directory that matches the pattern has a slash appended.

GLOB_NOCASE

By default, file names are assumed to be case sensitive; this flag makes `bsd_glob()` treat case differences as not significant.

GLOB_NOCHECK

If the pattern does not match any pathname, then `bsd_glob()` returns a list consisting of only the pattern. If `GLOB_QUOTE` is set, its effect is present in the pattern returned.

GLOB_NOSORT

By default, the pathnames are sorted in ascending ASCII order; this flag prevents that sorting (speeding up `bsd_glob()`).

The FreeBSD extensions to the POSIX standard are the following flags:

GLOB_BRACE

Pre-process the string to expand `{pat,pat,...}` strings like `cs(1)`. The pattern `'{}'` is left unexpanded for historical reasons (and `cs(1)` does the same thing to ease typing of `find(1)` patterns).

GLOB_NOMAGIC

Same as `GLOB_NOCHECK` but it only returns the pattern if it does not contain any of the special characters `"**"`, `"?"` or `"["`. `NOMAGIC` is provided to simplify implementing the historic `cs(1)` globbing behaviour and should probably not be used anywhere else.

GLOB_QUOTE

Use the backslash (`\`) character for quoting: every occurrence of a backslash followed by a character in the pattern is replaced by that character, avoiding any special interpretation of the character. (But see below for exceptions on DOSISH systems).

GLOB_TILDE

Expand patterns that start with `'~'` to user name home directories.

GLOB_CSH

For convenience, `GLOB_CSH` is a synonym for `GLOB_BRACE` | `GLOB_NOMAGIC` | `GLOB_QUOTE` | `GLOB_TILDE` | `GLOB_ALPHASORT`.

The POSIX provided `GLOB_APPEND`, `GLOB_DOOFFS`, and the FreeBSD extensions `GLOB_ALTDIRFUNC`, and `GLOB_MAGCHAR` flags have not been implemented in the Perl version

because they involve more complex interaction with the underlying C structures.

The following flag has been added in the Perl implementation for csh compatibility:

`GLOB_ALPHASORT`

If `GLOB_NOSORT` is not in effect, sort filenames in alphabetical order (case does not matter) rather than in ASCII order.

DIAGNOSTICS

`bsd_glob()` returns a list of matching paths, possibly zero length. If an error occurred, `&File::Glob::GLOB_ERROR` will be non-zero and `$!` will be set. `&File::Glob::GLOB_ERROR` is guaranteed to be zero if no error occurred, or one of the following values otherwise:

`GLOB_NOSPACE`

An attempt to allocate memory failed.

`GLOB_ABEND`

The glob was stopped because an error was encountered.

In the case where `bsd_glob()` has found some matching paths, but is interrupted by an error, it will return a list of filenames **and** set `&File::Glob::ERROR`.

Note that `bsd_glob()` deviates from POSIX and FreeBSD `glob(3)` behaviour by not considering `ENOENT` and `ENOTDIR` as errors - `bsd_glob()` will continue processing despite those errors, unless the `GLOB_ERR` flag is set.

Be aware that all filenames returned from `File::Glob` are tainted.

NOTES

- If you want to use multiple patterns, e.g. `bsd_glob("a* b*")`, you should probably throw them in a set as in `bsd_glob("{a*,b*}")`. This is because the argument to `bsd_glob()` isn't subjected to parsing by the C shell. Remember that you can use a backslash to escape things.
- On DOSISH systems, backslash is a valid directory separator character. In this case, use of backslash as a quoting character (via `GLOB_QUOTE`) interferes with the use of backslash as a directory separator. The best (simplest, most portable) solution is to use forward slashes for directory separators, and backslashes for quoting. However, this does not match "normal practice" on these systems. As a concession to user expectation, therefore, backslashes (under `GLOB_QUOTE`) only quote the glob metacharacters `['', ']', '{', '}', '-', '~'`, and backslash itself. All other backslashes are passed through unchanged.
- Win32 users should use the real slash. If you really want to use backslashes, consider using Sarathy's `File::DosGlob`, which comes with the standard Perl distribution.
- Mac OS (Classic) users should note a few differences. Since Mac OS is not Unix, when the glob code encounters a tilde glob (e.g. `~user`) and the `GLOB_TILDE` flag is used, it simply returns that pattern without doing any expansion.

Glob on Mac OS is case-insensitive by default (if you don't use any flags). If you specify any flags at all and still want glob to be case-insensitive, you must include `GLOB_NOCASE` in the flags.

The path separator is `:` (aka colon), not `/` (aka slash). Mac OS users should be careful about specifying relative pathnames. While a full path always begins with a volume name, a relative pathname should always begin with a `:`. If specifying a volume name only, a trailing `:` is required.

The specification of pathnames in glob patterns adheres to the usual Mac OS conventions: The path separator is a colon `:`, not a slash `/`. A full path always begins with a volume name.

A relative pathname on Mac OS must always begin with a ':', except when specifying a file or directory name in the current working directory, where the leading colon is optional. If specifying a volume name only, a trailing ':' is required. Due to these rules, a glob like <*:> will find all mounted volumes, while a glob like <*> or <:*> will find all files and directories in the current directory.

Note that updirs in the glob pattern are resolved before the matching begins, i.e. a pattern like `"*HD:t?p::a"` will be matched as `"*HD:a"`. Note also, that a single trailing ':' in the pattern is ignored (unless it's a volume name pattern like `"*HD:"`), i.e. a glob like `<:*:>` will find both directories *and* files (and not, as one might expect, only directories). You can, however, use the `GLOB_MARK` flag to distinguish (without a file test) directory names from file names.

If the `GLOB_MARK` flag is set, all directory paths will have a ':' appended. Since a directory like `'lib:'` is *not* a valid *relative* path on Mac OS, both a leading and a trailing colon will be added, when the directory name in question doesn't contain any colons (e.g. `'lib'` becomes `':lib:'`).

SEE ALSO

"glob" in perlfunc, `glob(3)`

AUTHOR

The Perl interface was written by Nathan Torkington <gnat@frii.com>, and is released under the artistic license. Further modifications were made by Greg Bacon <gbacon@cs.uah.edu>, Gurusamy Sarathy <gsar@activestate.com>, and Thomas Wegner <wegner_thomas@yahoo.com>. The C glob code has the following copyright:

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