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Thread: [How do I change my history size?](#)

u534D - February 25, 2015, 7:30 pm

How does a guy change his history size? By default there's 1000 lines. I want to go back and review my history for scripting later so I can be more productive. Here's the problem I'm running into. Every tutorial or article I find about this seems to be written by someone who has no idea what they are doing?

What files do I need to edit? Variables to change? stuff to comment out?

From what I could find the file I'm supposed to edit is bash.bashrc. If I make changes to it, it does nothing. There are a few articles that say I'm supposed to edit environment. This is something that really seems like it should be easy to do. ?

Benign - February 26, 2015, 7:26 am

Are you working directly from the command line or connecting in with putty over ssh?

See here if on cli <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/9457233/unlimited-bash-history>

If it's putty it's under the session settings I can't remember off the top of my head but I can look if you need it, I use it daily but I have it set globally now.

Final point, it's .bashrc in your home directory, not bash.bashrc

u534D - February 26, 2015, 8:24 am

It's still clear as mud. When I edit /etc/bash.bashrc it does nothing for me. Is there another file I'm supposed to edit?

Benign - February 26, 2015, 8:36 am

Edit /home/yourusername/.bashrc or /etc/.bashrc

Note the lack of the bash before the . This is not a typo.

u534D - February 26, 2015, 11:02 am

There's nothing like that in my home folder. Is it in /Home/usr/ ? /usr/share/

Betty Blue - February 26, 2015, 1:21 pm

(Feb 26, 2015 12:02 PM)u534D Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) There's nothing like that in my home folder. Is it in /Home/usr/ ? /usr/share/Yes there is

PHP Code

```
<?php
```

```
ls -al | grep .bash
```

It is a hidden file.

u534D - February 26, 2015, 4:11 pm

(Feb 26, 2015 02:21 PM)Zack de la Rocha Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yes there is

PHP Code

```
<?php
```

ls -al | grep .bash

It is a hidden file.

Cool. I found it with:

Code ls -al | grep .bash

Then I opened with

Code gedit .bashrc

Am I to understand that changing these two lines will give me unlimited history?

Change this:

Quote:HISTSIZE=1000

HISTFILESIZE=1000

To this:

Quote:HISTSIZE=

HISTFILESIZE=

Or is there something else I have to do?

Betty Blue - February 26, 2015, 4:52 pm

(Feb 26, 2015 05:11 PM)u534D Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Cool. I found it with:

Code ls -al | grep .bash

Then I opened with

Code gedit .bashrc

Am I to understand that changing these two lines will give me unlimited history?

Change this:

To this:

Or is there something else I have to do? That should do it, you can either do that or set it to some high number.

u534D - February 26, 2015, 6:43 pm

Totally worked!

If I run

Code echo \$HISTSIZE I get a blank output and that's exactly what I need.

Benign - February 26, 2015, 11:23 pm

This may default to a system wide history limit from the global bashrc. Setting it to -1 will force it to be unlimited.

It may be fine now though now and you can ignore the above :)

u534D - February 27, 2015, 11:05 pm

Good to know. I always forget about -1.