

Get UUID of Hard Disks

[Update]

Article Number: 320 | Rating: Unrated | Last Updated: Tue, Jul 17, 2018 12:42 PM

Short Tip: Get UUID of Hard Disks [Update]



There is an update to this post available: [UUIDs and Linux: Everything you ever need to know.](#)

The [Universally Unique Identifier](#) can be used to identify a device independent from its mount point or device name. This is more and more important as many devices today support hot-plugging or are external anyway. Therefore it makes sometimes sense to access a device (for example in fstab) not by device name but by the UUID.

There are several ways to get the UUID. The first one uses the /dev/ directory. While you are on is you might want to check other by-* directories, I never knew of them.

```
1
2
$ ls -l /dev/disk/by-uuid
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 10 11. Okt 18:02
53cdad3b-4b01-4a6c-a099-be1cdf1acf6d ->
../../sda2
```

Another way to get the uuid by usage of the tool blkid:

```
1
2
$ blkid /dev/sda1
/dev/sda1: LABEL="/"
UUID="ee7cf0a0-1922-401b-a1ae-6ec9261484c0"
SEC_TYPE="ext2" TYPE="ext3"
```

There you also get the label and other information. Quite usefule.

Btw., if you wonder how “unique” this unique is, here a quote from Wikipedia:

1 trillion UUIDs would have to be created every nanosecond for 10 billion years to exhaust the number of UUIDs.

Pretty unique.

Thanks to [Linux By Examples](#) for the [initial howto](#).

Posted - Tue, Jul 17, 2018 12:42 PM. This article has been viewed 2121 times.

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