

## Re: [opensuse] grep question

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SuSE/2007-03/msg03285.html>

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  - *Date:* Fri, 30 Mar 2007 12:39:34 -0400
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On 3/30/07, James Hatridge <[James.Hatridge@xxxxxx](mailto:James.Hatridge@xxxxxx)> wrote:

Hi all,

I have files with mailing addresses in them. There are normally 4–5 lines with the first line starting with "address: " then the person's name and 3 or 4 more lines of address. Can (how) I use grep to pull all the address out? If not grep what else?

I don't think grep can handle variable multiline results.

I would attack it with awk. (or gawk).

It is a pretty flexible reporting package.

Ignoring syntax a control file like:

```
START {print_lines=0; echo "File Header" > "output_file" }  
/address:/ {print_lines=4}  
{print_lines = print_lines-1  
if (print_lines > 0) print $0 >> "output_file"  
}
```

should be the basic code.

Then invoke it with:

```
awk -f control_file *
```

FYI: Double check all the above, but it should be enough to point you in the right direction.

Greg

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Re: [opensuse] grep question

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