NAME cat – concatenate and display files

SYNOPSIS **cat** [**–nbsuvet**] [*file* . . .]

AVAILABILITY SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

cat reads each *file* in sequence and writes it on the standard output. Thus:

example% cat file

prints **file** on your terminal, and:

example% cat file1 file2 >file3

concatenates **file1** and **file2**, and writes the results in **file3**.

If no input file is given, **cat** reads from the standard input file.

OPTIONS

–n Precede each line output with its line number.

–b Number the lines, as **–n**, but omit the line numbers from blank lines.

–u The output is not buffered. (The default is buffered output.)

–s **cat** is silent about non-existent files.

–v Non-printing characters (with the exception of tabs, new-lines and form-feeds) are printed visibly. ASCII control characters (octal 000 – 037) are printed as ˆ*n*, where *n* is the corresponding ASCII character in the range octal 100 – 137 (@, A, B, C, . . ., X, Y, Z, [, \,], ˆ, and _); the DEL character (octal 0177) is printed ˆ**?**. Other non-printable characters are printed as **M-***x*, where *x* is the ASCII character specified by the low-order seven bits.

When used with the **–v** option, the following options may be used:

–e A **$** character will be printed at the end of each line (prior to the new-line).

–t Tabs will be printed as ˆ**I**'s and formfeeds to be printed as ˆ**L**'s.

The **–e** and **–t** options are ignored if the **–v** option is not specified.

OPERANDS

The following operand is supported:

file A path name of an input file. If no *file* is specified, the standard input is used. If *file* is '–', **cat** will read from the standard input at that point in the sequence. **cat** will not close and reopen standard input when it is referenced in this way, but will accept multiple occurrences of '–' as *file*.

EXAMPLES

1. The following command:

   example% cat myfile

   writes the contents of the file **myfile** to standard output.

2. The following command:

   example% cat doc1 doc2 > doc.all

   concatenates the files **doc1** and **doc2** and writes the result to **doc.all**.

3. The command:

   example% cat start - middle - end > file

   when standard input is a terminal, gets two arbitrary pieces of input from the terminal with a single invocation of **cat**. Note, however, that if standard input is a regular file, this would be equivalent to the command:

   cat start - middle /dev/null end > file

   because the entire contents of the file would be consumed by **cat** the first time '−' was used as a *file* operand and an end-of-file condition would be detected immediately when '−' was referenced the second time.

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **cat**: **LC_CTYPE**, **LC_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 All input files were output successfully.

>0 An error occurred.

SEE ALSO

touch(1), **environ**(5)

NOTES

Redirecting the output of **cat** onto one of the files being read will cause the loss of the data originally in the file being read. For example,

example% cat filename1 filename2 >filename1

causes the original data in **filename1** to be lost.